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Venezuela's Escobar Calls for Dialogue on Bananas

FL2002002993 Bridgetown CANA in English 1744 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Feb 19, CANA—Venezuela's ambassador to Dominica, Hernani Escobar, Thursday called for dialogue between banana producing states in Latin America and the Caribbean to resolve trade differences.

His comments followed a warning by three Windward Islands prime ministers that they might be prepared to withdraw from the Organisation of American States (OAS), if Latin American countries maintained their lobbying against eastern Caribbean exports of bananas to Europe.

The leaders regard the Latin lobbying efforts as a campaign to undermine their protected markets in Europe under the single European Market regime.

Eugenia Charles of Dominica, James Mitchell of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and St. Lucia's John Compton, speaking on CANA's Caribbean Today radio programme yesterday, said they were prepared to take the "banana war" to its limits since they were fighting for the very survival of their economies as opposed to Latin American banana producers agitating for a larger share of the European market.

However, Roseau-based Ambassador Escobar, referring specifically to the Windwards' threat to leave the OAS, said it would be a sad state of affairs if this was done.

"That's an unfortunate step they would be taking," the Venezuelan diplomat added. He said the OAS was been working to bring Latin American and Caribbean countries closer together.

"I know that the banana issue is very vital and critical for the Windward Islands. But I mean in international relations negotiations and talking, dialogue is necessary. So I guess before taking any step as grave as that, talking would be better," Ambassador Escobar said.

Before the position put forward officially by the three Windward Islands prime ministers Thursday on CANA Radio, both Dominica's Prime Minister Charles and External Affairs Minister Brian Alleyne had warned in separate statements that the Latin position on bananas was making it very difficult to maintain cordial relations.

"They are no friend of ours," Dame Eugenia has repeatedly said this week.

Windward Farmers Back Leaders' Decision

FL2002182393 Bridgetown CANA in English 1511 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent, Feb 20, CANA—The Windward Islands Farmers Association [Winfa] has expressed support for a stated commitment by their government leaders to confront aggressive lobbying by Latin American producers.

"It is very heartening, particularly for the farmers of the Windward Islands, to know that their leaders are firmly behind them in terms of trying to ensure that they get justice in the market place and that they are prepared to continue what... is obviously a long battle," Winfa programme officer, Renwick Rose told CANA Friday.

He welcomed statements Thursday by the prime ministers of Dominica, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines of their intention to secure a future for Windward Islands bananas in Europe. The European Community has agreed to retain a protected market for Caribbean bananas in accordance with an historic trade and economic relationship with African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) states.

Latin American nations, which produce cheaper so-called "dollar" fruit, have been given a quota for their exports. The Latin Americans have threatened to put their case against the regime before a dispute panel of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) while Germany plans to appeal to the European court of justice.

Rose said it was now important that the Windward Islands governments strengthen their missions abroad, thus enabling them to effectively undertake the continuation of the lobby while linking with non-government organisations in Europe who could help the cause of Caribbean banana producers.

Rose also pointed to the need for Windward Islands governments to resolve differences with their banana associations which were reported to be annoyed at governments' decision to enter agreements with Geest for the formation of companies within the banana trade in preference to accepting proposals the associations had made.

"If we are going to be able to fight successfully, we must have unity on the home front," Rose said. He also cautioned the leaders to carefully consider statements of withdrawal from membership of the Organisation of American States because Latin American banana producers were attempting to take their lobbying efforts to this body.

"It is important that we do not act hastily... I don't think withdrawal from the OAS is going to help the cause. We must continue to battle them (the Latins) in the OAS and outside and keep a sober head at all times," said Rose.

European Community farm ministers last week ratified a new banana regime agreed to last December which applied tariff/quota restrictions on Latin American bananas while ensuring continued preferential access for traditional quotas produced by the Caribbean. It comes into effect on July 1.

'Showdown' Expected for OAS Meeting

FL2102235693 Bridgetown CANA in English 1811 GMT 21 Feb 93

[By Rickey Singh]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Feb 21, CANA—A unique diplomatic showdown between Caribbean and Latin American banana-producing countries is shaping up for an Organisation of American States (OAS) meeting planned for Wednesday.

As a direct response to an initiative by the Latin producers to undermine a preferential arrangement for Caribbean banana exports to Europe, Caribbean Community (Caricom) governments have decided to mount a challenge of their own within the OAS, a well-placed diplomatic source told CANA Sunday.

The scheduled Wednesday ministerial council meeting of the OAS in Washington is expected to face two "conflicting resolutions" - one from the Latin bloc of banana producers and the other from Caricom countries - with the United States squarely in the middle, according to one top official of the Georgetown-based Caricom Secretariat.

In the words of one Windward Islands foreign minister, "The USA, whose multinationals dominate the North American and European banana markets, is partly responsible for fuelling this controversy by its own campaign for free trade.

"It knows how seriously we in this region are being disadvantaged. It can use its influence in the OAS to avoid an open and unfortunate conflict among countries of this hemisphere that should really be moving much closer instead of away from each other," said the minister who preferred to remain anonymous.

The Caribbean region's banana industry constitutes a major source of employment and foreign exchange earnings, especially for the four Windward Islands.

The threatened sub-regional conflict within the 34-member OAS, in which the Caricom states have the single largest bloc of votes-12, could now only be avoided if Ecuador, moving on behalf of the Latin producers, can be persuaded to withdraw its resolution to get OAS backing for its campaign against the EC's preferential treatment for Caribbean bananas imported in Europe.

The Washington Caricom ambassadors lobby should be in possession of a resolution not later than Tuesday morning, "if not earlier", said a Caricom Secretariat source, as a counter to the move by the Latin producers.

The four-member Caricom Bureau, headed by Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Patrick Manning, was considering the draft of this resolution over this weekend.

The union of Latin American banana producers is contending that the preferential treatment accorded Caribbean producers is contrary to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) which sets the rules for global trade.

Further, that they were being unfaired by the European Community through an arrangement that ran counter to the spirit of free trade.

The Latin producers decided to extend their battle for unrestricted banana exports to Europe following the recent ratification by the European Community of a decision by the Community's agriculture ministers to protect the comparatively small exports of Caribbean bananas by a special regime.

Prime Minister James Mitchell of St Vincent and the Grenadines has deemed the battle for Europe's huge banana market - estimated to worth over US3 billion dollars a year - "the war over what's become a political fruit".

And Caricom goverments have now chosen to throw in their lot with their Caribbean banana-exporting partners to "check this propaganda war by the greedy banana multinationals that control the production and marketing of Latin America bananas", said one Caricom Bureau source.

He told CANA it was "simply ridiculous for the Latins to be behaving as if they have been given a raw deal that jeopardises the future of their producers simply by the limited special concessions granted Caribbean banana exporters to Europe".

At best, Caribbean banana exporters have no more than 20 per cent of the European banana market, and more likely 16 per cent, compared with the total control of the entire North American market and no less than 80 per cent of the European market by the exporters from the so-called "dollar banana areas" of Latin America.

In a bid to protect the erosion of the Caribbean's 16-20 percent share of the European market, the new arrangement worked out by EC agriculture ministers, expected to come into force by July, places a two million tonne quota at a tariff of 100 ECUs (european currency unit) per tonne for all bananas imported by Europe from Latin America.

Above that level, imports will be subjected to a tariff of about 850 ECUs, or 170 per cent.

Prime Minister Mitchell, reflecting a "no nonsense" mood, has warned that his own government has already considered its withdrawal from the OAS instead of having to remain and live with the social and economic consequences of such a vote, "inspired by the banana multinationals".

"Greedy" was the term used by an angry prime minister of Dominica, Mary Eugenia Charles, in rejecting the organised opposition by the Latins.

Caricom banana exporting countries comprise the four Windward Islands, Jamaica and Belize. Suriname, which has observer status in Caricom, is also associated with the Caribbean banana exporters to Europe under the EC-ACP Lome Convention.

Cristiani Comments on DEA at Drug Summit

PA2002213593 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] In Belize, Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani has said he does not think the U.S. DEA should participate directly in fighting drug trafficking in the region. He said, however, that the DEA should play an advisory role.

Cristiani made the statement when he arrived at the international airport in Belize. He and Belize's Prime Minister George Price, and President Violeta Chamorro of Nicaragua, Honduran President Rafael Callejas, and Panamanian President Guillermo Endara held a regional summit on drug trafficking.

The Salvadoran president stated that the Central American countries must cooperate in order to be successful in the struggle against drug trafficking, which affects all the countries in the region where drug money is laundered.

Cristiani said he was against the DEA operating directly in Central America. He emphasized that the sovereignty of nations must be respected. But he said he is willing to accept all kinds of international advice.

We are attending this meeting with the idea of seeking a way to coordinate our actions and, therefore, we will create a regional commission to fight drug trafficking, President Cristiani emphasized. It is necessary to conduct legislation to fight drug trafficking because drug consumption has increased considerably in all Central American countries, Cristiani concluded.

Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas said the meeting in Belize is an opportunity to conclude interregional agreements on drug trafficking.

President Violeta Chamorro said there are drugs all over her country and that drug consumption is now becoming popular. She emphasized the importance of this summit.

Agreement Signed; Summit Ends

PA2002214193 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] The presidents of Central America concluded their summit meeting on drugs on 19 February and asked the international community to help in the fight against drug trafficking, production, and consumption in their respective countries. They also announced in a final statement the implementation of a Central American commission to persecute drug trafficking activities. Presidents Guillermo Endara of Panama, Violeta Chamorro of Nicaragua, Rafael Cailejas of Honduras, Alfredo Cristiani of El Salvador, and representatives of the governments of Guatemala and Costa Rica made a commitment to support the commission and to provide the necessary funding.

The meeting began at 1400 and ended at approximately 2000. The work was intense at this drug summit meeting, in the capital city of Belize, between the prime minister of Belize; the presidents of El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama; the first vice president of Costa Rica; the Guatemalan government minister; and observers from the Mexico, the UK, and the United States. The meeting was to study and coordinate regional efforts in the fight against illegal drug production, trafficking, and consumption.

The leaders signed an agreement that included 18 high-priority issues and their condemnation and rejection of illegal drug production, trafficking, and consumption. They reaffirmed their determination to carry out joint efforts to prevent such activities. The leaders recognized the fact that illegal drug production and trafficking promotes violence and corruption, which seriously threaten the democratic institutions in our countries, thus jeopardizing national regional security

The regional presidents and leaders, acknowledging that the international community shares responsibility in the fight against drug trafficking and consumption, agreed to increase their efforts in coordination with the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, the UN International Narcotics Control Board, and the UN Latin American Institute for Crime Prevention and Treatment of Offenders. They stressed the need to increase international cooperation.

The meeting participants agreed to take the necessary steps to strengthen judicial institutions to ensure that drug traffickers and other criminals who are brought before them are in fact punished. These commitments will be met in accordance with the principles of self-determination and nonintervention in the internal matters of other nations.

The leaders agreed that, in six months, the Central American Permanent Commission on the Eradication of Drug Production, Trafficking, and Consumption must present a plan outlining the necessary actions to fight this curse. Panamanian President Guillermo Endara delivered the closing speech, during which he stated that the leaders met to show the world their political determination not to allow our territories or institutions to be used for this despicable trade. During a meeting with local and international reporters after the meeting, Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro said that Nicaragua enjoys freedom and peace, and is seeking justice and jobs for all. She reaffirmed Nicaragua's total rejection of illegal drug use.

Peru Reinstated in Amazon Parliament

PY1902132193 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2141 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] Brasilia, 18 Feb (EFE)—The Amazon Parliament Executive Board today approved in Brasilia the reinstatement of Peru in that regional organization, after ruling as legitimate the recent legislative elections held in that country.

Venezuelan Deputy Jose Curiel, Amazon Parliament president, told EFE that the Amazon Parliament Executive Board felt that democratic liberties have been restored in Peru with the free elections held at the end of last year.

The Peruvian Congress was invited to participate in the fifth regular meeting of the Amazon Parliament, which will be held in Brasilia on 10-15 May.

(Peru could not be represented last year in that regional organization because President Alberto Fujimori had closed Congress.)

Among the decisions adopted by the Executive Board at meetings during the past two days in Brasilia, we can mention the resolution that asks the governments of countries of the Amazon region to intensify efforts against the destruction of the environment and drug trafficking.

It also decided that Caracas will be the permanent site of the Secretariat General of the legislative group comprised of representatives from the national congresses of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela.

The Amazon Parliament Executive Board also agreed that the Pan-Amazon University, headquartered in the Brazilian town of Manaus, be dedicated on 15 May. Postgraduate courses will be offered at this university while appropriate technological research will be promoted for contributions to the Amazon basin's sustainable development.

Cuba

Castro Stresses United Vote to El Cerro Residents

FL1902221993

[Editorial Report] Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish at 1800 GMT on 19 February carries on the "National Radio Newscast" program a six-minute report on a meeting between Cuban President Fidel Castro and residents of El Canal neighborhood in El Cerro Municipality, Havana. No date or time was given.

President Castro first explains that he wanted to meet with El Canal residents and that he would like to meet with the residents of every section of Havana; but that is virtually impossible. He adds that the situation in this neighborhood and municipality is more complex because there are more social problems and difficulties here. Castro stresses that this makes the situation politically more complex because the enemy attempts to use any problem against the Revolution and socialism. Castro praises the revolutionary spirit of the residents and his commitment to solve the problems of the area.

On the importance of the elections, Castro notes that the struggle is more difficult in Havana because more problems have accumulated here. He praises the merits of the Havana candidates and the Cuban electoral system, adding: "In what other country is this being done? [Crowd answers: None] In what country can you have candidates like these; where wealth, influence, favoritism, or nepotism are not issues; where there is no need for electoral machinery, particularly money."

President Castro points out the importance of internalizing the idea that the united vote is not an slogan, but rather a political strategy. He emphasizes the need to vote for all the candidates for the benefit of Cuba and socialism, and concludes: "It is not a matter of discipline. It is a very important matter of understanding."

Fidel Castro Addresses Students on Elections

FL1902221793

[Editorial Report] Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish at 0200 GMT on 19 February broadcasts on its "Today" program a speech by Cuban President Fidel Castro to students in Havana on the evening on 18 February.

Castro begins by stressing his interest in the intense electoral struggle being waged in Havana. Castro speaks of his nomination by the Santiago de Cuba people, the difficulties in that region, and the greater sacrifices made by its residents. He adds: "To tell the truth, the people there are having a difficult time. In many eastern provinces they are making greater sacrifices than the people of Havana. On many occasions, they have been without bread for 15 days."

At 0207 GMT Castro points out that many international reporters cover these meetings and that the imperialist media manipulate information; but Cuba does not, and never will, fear anything. He says: "We speak when we must. We simply explain things when we have to. There is no reason to give the CIA information it does not have and that could be of great interest to the conduct of its work—including making a political map of Cuba, to see where to focus its efforts, here or there. The CIA knows that our greatest difficulty lies in Havana." Castro adds that foreign reporters are interested in dissension rather than in the fact that Cuba has the highest electoral participation in the world.

Castro explains elements of the Cuban electoral system and adds: "We have to defend with all our strength the principle of the party and its role, its purity, and its principles. We must stress its role as a guiding force, as a great strategist of our society, and the role of nominating and electing, which belongs to the people." He emphasizes the difference between the Cuban system and that of other countries, and the high ratio of base-level candidates. Castro explains that in other countries base-level officials do not have an opportunity to become members of the National Assembly.

At 0218 GMT Castro points out that Cuban athletes deserve to become members of the National Assembly, praising their revolutionary spirit and unselfishness. Castro also praises the quiet contributions of Cuban scientists and adds that they, too, deserve to be part of the National Assembly. He derides the Greek so-called democracy and stresses that the importance of socialism is due to its principles of justice, equality, and equal possibilities for all.

Castro explains that many candidates will not able to meet with all the people and adds: "This is the reason the idea of the united and concentrated vote is so very important, the great importance of not dividing the vote, not diluting the vote. This is extremely important because it reflects an exalted principle of justice, if we want a society which truly offers equal opportunities."

At 0224 Castro stresses the importance of student participation and notes: "We cannot allow the candidates' biographies to be our only guiding element. We must reflect, think, trust the work of the candidacy commissions, and open the door to those comrades." Castro says that not dispersing the vote is an strategic political idea and adds: "Actually, the united vote is not going to benefit the most popular candidates. The united and concentrated vote is going to benefit the less well known candidates." "The idea of the united vote is not a slogan but a political strategy based on a solid foundation." Castro stresses the value of unity and the humble origin of the candidates.

At 0231 GMT Castro discusses the ties between national and local problems and the role of the deputies in resolving them. He says: "What we are doing can only be done thorough a revolution which puts an end to injustices and inequalities." Castro claims that in societies where discrimination is the norm, a system like the

Cuban system could never be implemented; he adds: "To implement a true democracy, first one must carry out a true revolution."

President Castro stresses the necessity for internalizing the importance of the united vote, then describes the commitment of national heroes, effects of the U.S. embargo, and efforts to solve problems despite the special period.

Castro then notes the necessity for defending Cuba's achievements and the strategic importance of the elections. He adds: "After the elections we have to show the enemy our strength, to show that, despite difficulties and immense problems, our people are of high caliber, have great courage, are highly committed, and have a great political culture. They are a people capable of behaving with a dignity that does not have to envy anything from the best pages of history of any nation in the world."

At 0240 GMT Castro thanks the students for their attention and concludes with the slogan: "Fatherland or death. We will win."

Alarcon on Human Rights Violations, Elections

PA2002204193 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon emphasized that there are no human rights violations in Cuba. He considered [words indistinct] on the subject, as his country is measured by different parameters than other countries.

During a recent interview with the Spanish daily EL PAIS, the foreign minister stressed the economic changes Cuba is implementing in an effort to solve its problems. He noted the increase in foreign investments.

When asked about the symbolism of the slogan that says Fatherland, Revolution, and Socialism, the chief of Cuban diplomacy compared it to the religious dogma of the Holy Trinity. Alarcon pointed out that patriotism is unalienable, while revolution and socialism represent the social project that the Cuban people have implemented for organizing the economy and society.

Noting the 24 February elections in Cuba, Foreign Minister Alarcon said the government is not seeking a certificate of good behavior from the West. No one can expect to have a monopoly on democracy, he said. The others do not want to forgive Cuba for not falling like the rest of the socialist world, the foreign minister said. They do not forgive us for not committing suicide, Ricardo Alarcon emphasized.

Escalona Stresses Confidence in Electoral Results

FL2002191393 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] This morning Juan Escalona Reguera, the president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], gave a news conference. Reporter Marisela Escoto has the details.

[Begin recording] [Escoto] Escalona stressed his confidence in the success of the 24 February elections because over 85 percent of the Cuban people voted in favor of socialism in the previous municipal elections on 20 December. Escalona pointed out that there are 7.7 million voters registered throughout Cuba to elect 589 ANPP deputies and 1,190 delegates to the Provincial Assemblies of the People's Government. This is in accordance with the current law which establishes that there is to be a deputy per every 20,000 voters and a provincial delegate per every 10,000 voters—except in Havana where it is per every 15,000 voters.

Escalona stresses the importance of the elections in light of the changes made to the Constitution. In this regard, he said:

[Escalona] Our elections, with secret and direct voting, are an answer to our people, to the concerns which they expressed during the period of preparation for the Fourth Communist Party of Cuba Congress. It is a process of improving our socialist democracy.

[Escoto] The president of the ANPP also talked about the importance of the candidate selection work conducted by the candidacy commissions.

[Escalona] Of course, the quality of the candidates will allow us precisely this: to better fulfill these functions. I believe that this is going to be a new phase in the life of the Cuban assemblies, not only the ANPP but also the municipal and provincial assemblies. Our Constitution allowed us to modify the structure of the provincial and municipal governments. We are working at this to make more efficient the public administration. I believe that the path we have chosen will yield better results. [end recording]

Havana Condemns South Korean-U.S. Exercises

FL1902223893 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2032 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Relations [Minrex], in a declaration, condemned the resumption of the joint military exercises between the United States and South Korea known as Team Spirit. The document points out that after a one-year hiatus, those governments formally and publicly announced that in the middle of March they would resume the military exercises they have been conducting for over a decade south of the 38th parallel on the Korean Peninsula.

The government of the DPRK has said that resuming the exercises would exacerbate the situation in the area and endanger the peace and security of Asia and the rest of the world, while entailing a rehearsal for a nuclear war. The Minrex expresses the feeling of the Cuban people in its energetic condemnation of the resumption of the Team Spirit maneuvers, viewing these exercises as the United States' attempt to maintain a military presence in South Korea while it tries to eliminate socialism from the northern part of the Korean Peninsula.

Camaguey Airport Resumes International Flights

FL1902181493 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1510 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] International flights have resumed at Camaguey's Ignacio Agramonte Airport. Three thousand meters of runway have been undergoing fundamental repairs since last August, and they have now been put into use in the second phase. According to the newspaper GRANMA on 19 February, these flights have been resumed in a limited way for the time being, because the repair work being done to the airport is still underway. The work will continue until a third coat of asphalt has been laid on the landing-strip portion of the new runway, with its two taxiing lanes for planes; the runway lighting is complete.

The contributions made to the progress of this piece of construction work by the (Econ-15) Work Group, the Capitan (Lawton) Contingent, and the construction materials factories is (?praiseworthy). The work of the (COI-8) and the (COI-16) is also highlighted.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

OECS Director Urges Guyana-Trinidad Economy Merger

FL1902164593 Bridgetown CANA in English 1429 GMT 19 Feb 93

[By Ric Mentus]

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, Feb 19, CANA—There is a certain "complementarity" between the raw materials base of Guyana and the Trinidad and Tobago industrial base, and there are possibilities now for the integration of these two systems, according to Dr. Vaughn Lewis, director general of the Organisation of Eastern [Caribbean] States (OECS).

Lewis said he believes these factors are behind the initiative by Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister Patrick Manning, for closer economic collaboration among this country, Guyana, and Barbados. Lewis told CANA that six to seven years ago, a strong push was made by the prime minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, James Mitchell, to "re-integrate" Guyana into the Caribbean Community system after the debts by Guyana to the Caricom Multilateral Clearing Facility (CMCF) had accumulated to a significant degree. This move coinicided with the democratisation move in Guyana (after the death in 1985 of President Forbes Burnham), accompanined by privatisation.

"And I can say there has been some recovery in the Guyana economy: some attempt has been made to reestablish proper financial institutions and management systems," Lewis said. He continued: "I believe the government of Trinidad and Tobago had on its hands a major industrial infrastructure base through the original investments by the late Dr. Eric Williams, some of which it is now beginning to privatise.

"I believe that Guyana sees that there is a certain complementarity between Guyana's productive system and the Trinidad and Tobago system, and that there are now possibilities for integration." Lewis said both countries realised that such integration would require "joint management, and that requires joint political decision-making. That is how I read the Manning initiative. It's the logical way to go about things," he said. But he could find no explanation for the inclusion of Barbados, "except that at one time it was developing into a kind of financial centre. But unfortunately, the Barbados economy is now going in the opposite direction."

Lewis said he believed the initiative was useful in stirring the people of the region to the idea that integration was a necessity. He supported it from the point of view that the region must seek to promote complementarity, and he believed it logical that integration activities required "an appropriate system of political and policy management."

Telecommunications Group To Lobby FCC

FL2102235793 Bridgetown CANA in English 1921 GMT 21 FEb 93

[By Hallam Hope]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Feb 21, CANA—Caribbean telecommunications companies, which depend heavily on overseas revenues to finance development projects, are moving to put their case on accounting rates to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) of the United States.

Through their umbrella body, the Caribbean Association of National Telecommunications Organisations (CANTO), they have launched a study of accounting rates impacts and are to ask the FCC, the U.S regulatory body, to extend a February 26 deadline, allowing them to complete work and present a common position.

"The study will treat the global issues of cost-based accounting principles from the standpoint of developing countries of the Caribbean," said the body in a weekend communique sent to CANA on its recent mid-year members meeting in Guadeloupe.

Accounting rates are negotiated by telephone carriers to reimburse each other for international calls.

The United States contend these rates are unjustifiably higher than merited and result in an annual deficit of about three billion dollars (US).

But some analysts from developing countries contend that the FCC, a government agency responsible for communications matters which is working with its carriers to lower these rates, has acknowledged that its measurement methods are incomplete.

At the CANTO meeting, attended by fifty telecommunication executives from 16 Caribbean countries, the negative impact of lower accounting rates on operations was highlighted.

Guyana said it needed CANTO support on the issue and Suriname pledged to work closely with the organisation on the rates issue and to support lobbying with the FCC.

CANTO's "Guadeloupe Declaration" on the February 1-2 meeting said: "Because of the importance of the issue of international call accounting rates to the economic development of CANTO's members, their countries and the public, indications that the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is intent on responding to pressures from U.S. carriers - especially AT&T, to unilaterally lower accounting rates as a means of reducing the U.S. trade deficit, it was agreed that CANTO would form an adhoc committee to deal with this issue."

The CANTO Secretariat will employ the legal services of Bob Aamoth of Reed Smith Shaw & McClay to assist the secretariat in its work.

"A synthesis of the various submissions which have been drafted toward a common position, to be circulated to all members and when amended, submitted to the ITU's (International Telecommunications Union), CCITT, the GATT, the UN and the FCC," said the communique.

CANTO said Aamoth would be directed to request that the FCC extend its deadline for submissions (currently February 26) until it could make its submission.

"The CTU (Caribbean Telecommunications Union) will be approached for their support on this issue," said the communique.

Finance Minister: Budget Cuts Support Recovery

FL2102231593 Bridgetown CANA in English 1633 GMT 21 Feb 93

[By Ivan Clifford]

[Text] Hamilton, Bermuda, Feb 21, CANA—Bermuda has been spared a heavy dose of new taxation in a government budget aimed at fostering economic recovery in this resort island whose affluence has been built on tourism and international business.

Finance Minister David Saul said the principal aim in this year's near US380 million dollar budget, in which he has cut spending, was to support the island's delicate recovery from what he termed the worst recession to hit the island since the 1930s.

In a twin thrust to ease the cost of living and promote the creation of jobs, the minister kept taxes to an "absolute minimum" and introduced tax relief for businesses.

"Now is not the time for government to increase the rate or level of taxation," he told members of Parliament. But the opposition immediately labelled it an election manifesto.

A general election must be called within the next 12 months.

"It is felt that any move to increase taxes this year would certainly undermine the anticipated growth in household incomes and weaken the economic recovery," said Dr. Saul.

The minister waived tax hikes on items normally marked for annual increases. Residents were spared higher land taxes, customs duties and government fees. In addition the minister moved to reduce costs for hotels, retailers, condominium buyers and the retail and international business sectors.

In a bid to encourage job creation Dr. Saul increased employment tax exemptions and deductions for small businesses. He said the move, which could affect up to 700 businesses, would cost government around 800,000 dollars in revenues.

He said it was imperative that government and the private sector concentrate on keeping costs down so the island "can achieve a higher level of competitiveness in the world markets of tourism and international business".

He put government at the forefront of his cost-control plan by limiting spending to 379.4 million dollars, or 28.1 million dollars below last year.

For the second straight year government revenues had declined, said Dr. Saul, falling 12.5 million dollars below expectations.

The performance left the government with a current account surplus of 10.6 million dollars, a figure Dr. Saul described as inadequate given the demands of its building plans.

The budget halved the tax on passengers arriving in the island aboard pleasure craft from 30 dollars to 15 dollars as of April 1 - the same amount currently paid by all departing airline passengers.

The 50 per cent tax cut is expected to encourage even more yachting visitors, especially to St. George's the island's second town, which depends heavily on this trade.

Despite the recession the number of yachts visiting Bermuda last year went up, with 4,630 passengers coming ashore compared with 3,742 in 1991.

St. George's businessmen said it would take some time for news of the tax cut to reach yachting fraternities in the Caribbean and on the United States eastern seaboard.

"We hope that the tax reduction will inspire more people to stop in Bermuda on their way up from the Caribbean," said Dr. Saul. The budget set aside 1.4 million dollars for building changing facilities at the still half-finished remodelled national stadium.

Grenada

Government, Business Disagree on CET Benefits

FL1902162293 Bridgetown CANA in English 1409 GMT 19 Feb 93

[By Richard Simon]

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, Feb 19, CANA—While the Caribbean Community's Common External Tariff (CET) may have been widely criticized, it has opened up new doors for regional manufacturers and consumers, according to president of the Grenada Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Aaron Moses.

According to Moses, Grenadians increased purchases from Caricom following the implementation of the CET in April 1991 and statistics from the Finance Ministry showed an eight million dollar (one East Caribbean dollar = 37 U.S. cents) increase in imports. Grenada imported EC28 million dollars worth of goods from Caricom countries between January and April, 1991 while imports rose to EC36 million following the CET implementation between April and June of that year.

"This was not just a matter of lower price, although that was part of the reason, but regional consumers also found goods of comparative quality to those found outside the region," the Chamber president told CANA. However, some merchants and other businessmen complain they are being outpriced since most of their products are imported from extraregional sources.

"We have not only suffered from the CET from a business point of view, but even the national economy has suffered because the volume of our imports has decreased and we pay less to government," a leading Grenada merchant told CANA. While the merchants are happy with the reduction of the tariff, Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States are saying government is agreeing to unfair competition to their products.

"Government is doing things that are unfair to their own people and increasing the chances for the economies of the larger countries outside the region to expand," a leading paint manufacturer, Ninian Marie, told CANA. He accused regional governments of taking measures to "strengthen" the economies of developed states to the detriment of Caribbean peoples.

Grenadian manufacturers have written to Prime Minister Nicholas Brathwaite expressing concern over the CET and other government measures introduced in its 1993 budget.

Haiti

Port-au-Prince Police Chief Interviewed

PM1902155093 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 17 Feb 93 p 4

[Report on interview with Port-au-Prince Police Chief Lieutenant Colonel Michel Francois by Reinoud Roscam Abbing in Port-au-Prince; date not specified]

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 17 Feb—The white—and now abandoned—presidential palace in the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince is within shooting range of the headquarters of the metropolitan police. Behind the fence of the brown-yellow building, brand-new Toyota Landcruiser jeeps are parked and men in civilian clothes and sunglasses with much gold around their necks and wrists hang about in the corridors. They are waiting for the chief of the capital's police, Lieutenant Colonel Michel Francois.

Outside the fence everyone would prefer to have nothing to do with him. Francois, many Haitians say, is the personification of the military dictatorship and is directly or indirectly responsible for what the Haitian opposition calls the "thousands of dead" who have fallen since the 30 September 1991 coup d'etat against the elected president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide. This coup was not, as is often assumed, staged by the current leader of the Haitian armed forces and consequently of the military junta, Lieutenant General Raoul Cedras, but by his subordinate, Lieutenant Colonel Francois.

Even today he is "the real strongman in Haiti," say influential Haitian businessmen who speak on the promise of strict anonymity. They were the people who suggested an interview with Francois, so that he "can correct his poor image" and in doing so show "what a man of principle and excellent soldier" the police chief is.

The world, Francois says, has "a wrong picture" of Haiti. "There are groups here, on the left and on the right, which continue to attack each other. If the police shoot dead two zenglendos (Creole for bandits—editorial note) the press immediately reports that they are opponents of the police. But zenglendos must be killed." And political opponents? "If we shoot them dead in a fight. But there is no policy of terrorizing the political opposition. If order is restored using force in Los Angeles, then this is 'law and order' [words given in English]. If we do the

same, it is a violation of human rights." But: "The silent majority is on the side of the army, because they now feel safe again in Haiti."

Reports by organizations like Amnesty International and America's Watch, along with reports by the U.S. Department of State, speak a different language. Amnesty International, in a report from August last year: "The Haitians are still living in fear, while their oppressors are free to kill and torture and profit from this financially." Are there political prisoners in Haiti? "Francois takes no prisoners; he simply gets rid of them," a supporter of President Aristide said.

In a corner of Michel Francois' office a television set is constantly tuned to the American news channel CNN, so that every half hour it is possible to hear Jesse Jackson's plea for the Haitian refugees at the Gauntanamo naval base who have been refused entry to the United States because they are infected with the AIDS virus. On the wall there hangs a map of Port-au-Prince, and on a shelf a lifelike model of the brown-yellow police headquarters—it is a cake.

Francois, a slightly portly man in his thirties, sits at the head of a long conference table at which his friends are also sitting. Tape recordings are not to be made and photographs not to be taken. To begin with he is unwilling to speak "on the record" [words given in English], but the desire to "clear his name" proves stronger. "I am a real 'bad guy' [words given in English] for some people: thieves, criminals. I am not really against the opposition." However, it is the opposition, supporters of exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who accuse "Sweet Mickey," as he is nicknamed, along with a group of around 200 supporters of unleashing a reign of terror among the Haitian population.

Francois takes a different view of the course of events in Haiti—which for decades has been ravaged by often extreme internal violence. "For the last 17 months peace and calm have reigned here. There are no longer any revenge attacks. Nobody gets burning car tires around their necks any more." CNN is turned off and onto the television screen come the images from a video tape on which lynch mobs from the time before the coup are recorded. "Do you see that?" Francois asked indignantly. "The sleeve with the stripes. That is a sergeant being set on fire."

The political scene in and around Haiti is changing. A week ago the United Nations produced an agreement which provides for the return of democracy and—this is the wish of the international community—eventually the return of President Aristide. In preparation for this an initial group of 40 observers from the Organization of American States (OAS) arrived in Haiti on Sunday [14 February].

One of the tasks of the observers is to check on respect for human rights in the country. In all around 500 observers from the OAS and the United States will have to be stationed in Haiti. Lieutenant Colonel Francois is careful with his answers on this political question.

Will other observers be admitted after this first group of 40? "That remains to be seen."

[Roscam Abbing] When Aristide is in power again....

"What makes you think that?"

[Roscam Abbing] Do you think it would be good for the country if Aristide were to return?

"No."

[Roscam Abbing] Should the army continue to refrain from political activity?

"Yes, there I agree. The 30 September 1991 coup was necessary. Circumstances forced us into it."

The lieutenant colonel said that he could not answer any further questions about the how and the why of the coup "at the present moment." In the circles around him it is said that the army had felt threatened by the Aristide government. "Eighty percent of the army were being prosecuted. Their lives were not safe."

According to this reading of events Francois, then still a major, was on the point of being murdered by his predecessor, Colonel Pierre Cherubin, who had once been exiled, but was recalled by Aristide and appointed security chief. In the Cafeteria, the barracks over which Francois had command, the decision was then reached that a coup should be staged. Francois telephoned Cedras—who had been appointed interim army commander by Aristide—and gave him the choice: Take part and take over the leadership or wait and see what will happen to you.

The circle around Francois and political opponents both assume that junta leader Cedras is nothing more than a puppet in Francois' hands. But Francois dismisses the oft-heard suggestion that the Haitian armed forces are divided. "The army is a stable institution," he said. "The only one in Haiti," a friend of his added.

Because he is responsible for public order and the administration of justice Lieutenant Colonel Francois is in a position of power. His opponents accuse him of grossly abusing it. "Sweet Mickey says, 'The streets are mine,'" a high-ranking official who has remained loyal to Aristide said. And in Haiti, which is always saturated with rumors, there circulates the story, confirmed by various sources, that recently Francois had all the money changers arrested in order to dictate to them a new exchange rate for the gourde against the U.S. dollar.

Businessmen who are also active on the black market confirmed that they have received calls from Francois in which he fixed the new exchange rate. According to other rumors, Francois also wants 1,200 Haitian dollars (the country has three monetary units), or his monthly salary of just under 1,000 Dutch guilders, for every truckload of

imported cement. "Michel Francois is a man of principles," said a friend. "He is not involved in that." A prominent official of Ciment d'Haiti estimates that the price of a sack of cement has even fallen, now that no more quotas apply to cement.

"I invite the world to point to something wrong in my past," Francois himself says.

His opponents complain that a little letter from the police chief is sufficient to decide a court case in favor of the recipient of the letter. Francois does not deny this. "The police must always be involved in the administration of justice. The administration of justice is weak. Those with the most money always win. If you are not satisfied, you come to me. I have an eye for special cases, and I let the judges know this. They will administer justice if they know I am keeping an eye on them."

In Francois' definition, democracy is "that you have to do what the law requires you to do. Your rights end where those of someone else begin." In the interests of public order, the police chief said, he does have to ban demonstrations. However, the political opposition—which also operates fairly openly within Haiti—is hoping that the arrival of the observers will change this situation. In response to a question a spokesman for Aristide's Presidential Commission in Port-au-Prince said that it is "more a matter of weeks than of months" before the exiled president again sets foot on Haitian soil. Then Francois' days as police chief, as an officer, and as an inhabitant of his country would seem to be numbered. "People would never accept it if Francois were not brought to trial," said a priest allied to Aristide's Lavalas movement. But, Francois said, "that depends on God. And I believe in God."

Jamaica

Telecommunication Workers Stage One-Day Strike

FL1902143593 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1100 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Three thousand telecommunications workers walked off the job yesterday in Jamaica. The one-day strike was called to protest the Industrial Disputes Tribunal's decision to grant the workers only a 50-percent salary hike instead of the 106 percent the workers had asked. The workers say the company can afford to pay for it because they got $250 million after tax profit last year.

Workers Extend Strike

FL2002002793 Bridgetown CANA in English 2000 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 19, CANA—The disruption of Jamaica's telecommunication services continued Friday as more than 2,000 workers employed islandwide by Telecommunications of Jamaica (TOJ) stayed away from work.

They are protesting what they say is an inadequate wage award by the island's Industrial Disputes Tribunal.

Errol Miller, the TOJ's public relations officer, said workers at the cable and wireless firm, Jamaica International Telecommunications (Jamintel), a subsidiary of TOJ, who stopped working for a day Thursday had returned to their posts. However, he said, many technical and clerical employees at TOJ stations islandwide had stayed off the job.

Miller said there had so far been no reports of "serious degradation of telecommunication services".

Meanwhile, the workers are reportedly contemplating taking legal action to redress the perceived inadequacy of the wage award.

The tribunal awarded a 50 per cent increase in the first year and 30 per cent in the second of a two year contract while the workers had demanded 150 per cent increase.

The workers say they are particularly angry following the failure of the tribunal to make an award regarding 35 of 52 wage and fringe benefit claims.

"...Subject to the advice of the attorneys it is our view that the dispute as defined by the terms of reference was not settled," said Clive Dobson, president of the National Workers Union which represents the TOJ workers.

"Of all 52 claims, it is ludicrous for it to hand down an award which failed to addess 35 of these claims," he argued.

Sugar Workers Promised Stake in Divested Industry

FL2102231793 Bridgetown CANA in English 1717 GMT 21 FEb 93

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 21, CANA—The Jamaica Government has promised sugar workers and cane farmers a stake in the ownership of the industry after the completion of divestment process set for year-end.

Prime Minister P.J. Patterson told cane farmers at a conference here last week that sugar workers who become redundant under the privatisation programme, would be allowed to invest their redundancy payments in the industry, which earned Jamaica over US80 million dollars in export earnings last year.

The prime minister also said cane lands would not be leased or sold to persons outside of the industry.

"Cane land is not going to be turned over to people who want to speculate in land," he said.

"Remaining cane lands will be leased in economic blocks to persons or groups engaged in, or about to be engaged in cane farming, not any other kind of activity."

Patterson said an employee share ownership plan also would be established to encourage worker ownership.

A common set of criteria was being developed to evaluate applications so that farmers, workers and the general public would have equal opportunity to participate in ownership.

"I hope enlightened trade union leadership will encourage (workers) to invest a substantial portion of (redundancy) payments in owning a stake in the industry to which they have given so much.

"What better way to finally remove the vestiges of the plantation system than to ensure ownership participation for workers, farmers and factory managers," the prime minister said.

Patterson said there would also be long term leasing of cane lands, and an adequate amount would be made available to each of Jamaica's nine sugar factories to facilitate uninterrupted supplies.

The prime minister said cane farmers would have access to foreign exchange loans from the agricultural credit bank to buy farm supplies, including vehicles, farm equipment and fertiliser.

The loans, to be guaranteed by the Sugar Industry Authority (SIA), would carry an interest rate of up to 15 per cent per annum.

St. Christopher and Nevis

Caribbean Community Affairs Minister Named

FL1802182993 Bridgetown CANA in English 1754 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] Basseterre, St. Kitts, Feb 18, CANA—The St. Kitts and Nevis Government on Thursday named its first Caribbean Community Affairs minister—Joseph Parry.

An official statement said the appointment was in keeping with an agreement reached at the special meeting of Caricom heads of government in Port of Spain, Trinidad, last October. The heads at their October 28-30 meeting agreed that "each member state would designate a minister with specific responsibility for Caricom affairs."

The statement said Parry and his counterparts from other Caricom member countries would constitute a Caribbean Community council of ministers that would eventualy replace the common market council of ministers, as the second highest organ of the community.

Parry is an elected representative of the Nevis Reformation Party [NRP], an ally of the ruling People's Action Movement here. He was made a minister in the office of the prime minister following the last general elections in 1989. Parry was also named leader of the opposition in the Nevis island administration when his NRP lost control of the 52-square mile island in local government elections last June.

Trinidad and Tobago

BWIA International Managing Director Resigns

FL2002003093 Bridgetown CANA in English 2055 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Feb 19, CANA—BWIA International, the Trinidad and Tobago state airline, on Friday announced the resignation of its managing director, Ian Bertrand. But the airline gave no reason for the planned departure of Bertrand at month-end.

A letter signed by Chairman J.P. Esau, said: "Ian Bertrand late yesterday announced to the management his resignation from the airline after 14 years of committed and intense service to BWIA as managing director."

Bertrand, the longest serving chief executive officer of the airline, is expected to be replaced "in the shortest possible time", according to Esau.

Costa Rica

Unions Decide To Fight Privatization

PA1802173593 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 12 Feb 93 p 4a

[Report by Rodrigo Peralta G.]

[Text] Several union organizations have decided to fight the privatization of public institutions. To this end, the unions on 11 February announced they would unite in a national front "to fight the Economic Adjustment Program that is being implemented."

The announcement was made by the following union officials: Mario Rojas, secretary general of the Rerum Novarum Workers Confederation (CTRN) [Confederacion de Trabajadores Rerum Novarum]; Albino Vargas, secretary general of the National Association of Public Employees (ANEP); and Rafael Angel Mora, secretary general of the National Insurance Institute Union (UPINS) [Union del Personal de Instituto Nacional de Seguros].

Although the union leader admitted there are differences among the groups, they clarified that the National Sovereignty Defense Front [Frente Nacional de Defensa de la Soberania] will unite all the workers in the country, without ideological distinctions, "as we are united in our decision to combat a common enemy: the privatization of public services."

CTRN Rojas reported they had already talked to other workers organizations such as the Costa Rican Teachers Union. He said they will also present their position at the Permanent Workers Council (CPT) [Consejo Permanente de los Trabajadores.]

Referring to the neoliberal economic argument, UPINS leader Mora stated: "The program has failed in Latin America. The Chilean case clearly shows this as almost 40 percent of Chileans do not have access to medical services or education. This has not been considered here. The social cost is too high."

ANEP's Vargas said it still is not too late to fight the privatization process and workers still have time to fight so that they can continue to have access to the services they have received over the past 40 years.

He criticized the government's economic policy and said the statistics reported by the government have not resulted in social well-being for Costa Ricans.

Vargas added that the situation can be easily appreciated, as there is no medicine at the Social Security Trust, no school supplies in schools, and "workers do not have money to live decently," among other things.

El Salvador

MAC Says Government Security Program 'Incomplete'

PA2002200793 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] On 19 February, Guillermo Antonio Guevara, secretary general of the Authentic Christian Movement [MAC], stated that the government's security program is late and incomplete. He said the program does not consider overall solutions to the crime wave the nation is experiencing.

In Guevara's opinion, the program only resolves the immediate problem. Guevara said that the crime wave developed after the government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] agreed to dissolve security corps such as the Treasury [PH] and National Guard [GN]. Here is what Guevara said:

[Begin Guevara recording] Although the plan is good, it is late in coming. MAC, as a political party, maintains that the FMLN and the government improvised too much when they decided to eliminate the PH and the GN for political and ideological reasons. An emergency plan should have been implemented to replace these two corps in the fight against crime. [end recording]

The MAC leader said that the partial program against crime only contains measures to combat crime, leaving out rehabilitation, prevention, and other aspects.

[Begin Guevara recording] The crime problem should be confronted by a strengthened police system, through education and crime prevention. Assurances should be made in the judicial system so that procedures are complied with, investigations are carried out, and the guilty punished. A jail system should be developed so that criminals can be reformed instead of hardened. [end recording]

Guevara thinks the program announced by the government is not broad enough to confront the crime wave and believes that this program should be explained in detail to the deputies at the Legislative Assembly.

FMLN Reacts to Government Security Measures

PA2002200493 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] According to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front's [FMLN] Political Commission, for the government to implement an efficient contingency plan for improved security, a trustworthy judiciary system is required to investigate and analyze cases. Those being prosecuted should receive adequate treatment in line with the law. A rehabilitation program should be implemented to avoid a recurrence of the problem. The government plan does not include this policy and, therefore, the FMLN claims it is shortsighted and does not address the true problem.

On 20 February, members of the Permanent Committee for the National Debate on Peace [CPDN] agreed to the government-announced security measures. They also requested that the National Civilian Police [PNC] be reinforced. CPND representatives said that even though the government has presented its security plan too late in light of the current crime wave, it is a very well outlined plan. They added that in addition to fighting crimes, the PNC should be strengthened to fight against assault gangs as well. They said that it would be ideal to implement these security measures in Santa Ana, San Salvador, and San Miguel. Here is what CPND Coordinator Reverend Edgar Palacios said:

[Begin Palacios recording] We would like for this program to be included in the Constitution's framework and, thereby, effectively and efficiently strengthen the PNC. We would like for the Armed Forces to limit their actions to those established by the Constitution. Those actions include vigilance of the national territory and its sovereignty. It does not include their participation in security matters. It appears that the support required is not offered to the PNC. This is done to justify the military forces's presence in security actions, which violates the Constitution. [end recording]

Reverend Edger Palacios added that besides granting adequate means to the PNC for investigating crime, deficiencies in the Judicial Branch should be resolved.

[Begin Palacios recording] A cleansing process must be undertaken in the Judicial Branch because justice is not applied equally to all citizens. The rich can evade justice while the poor are often jailed without sufficient evidence. [end recording]

The CPND stated that there are two important actions that need to be taken to end crime. One involves implementing a mental health campaign and the other involves collecting all privately owned weapons that have been exclusively authorized for use by the Armed Forces.

Merino Counters Criticism of Crime Prevention Plan

PA2002211493 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] Vice President Francisco Merino said on 20 February that it is too early to criticize the National Crime Prevention Plan that began on the week of 14 February. The government launched this plan to attempt to control the crime wave that is afflicting our country. The plan has been criticized by various groups who claim it lacks important factors related to the judicial system. They also criticize the manner in which it is being implemented.

[Begin Merino recording] I believe that lack of surveillance is what encourages criminals. In theory, the plan should make it more difficult for criminals to engage in their activities. The people are calling for more surveillance. The government is answering the request of the majority of Salvadorans. We must understand the difference between political issues and national issues. [end recording]

Merino said that the plan was seen as overdue, given the recent violence. Its results will be evaluated periodically to make the necessary corrections. The majority of common criminals uses large-caliber weapons. The vice president said that restricted weapons are being picked up.

[Begin recording] [Merino] Some restricted weapons, which are for the exclusive use of the Armed Forces, are still in the hands of some civilians. Criminals violate the law, which is why certain weapons remain at large.

[Unidentified reporter] Many argue that the weapons being seized are small-caliber weapons, while the large-caliber weapons have not yet been picked up.

[Merino] Small-caliber weapons are allowed by law. All citizens have a legal right to register these weapons.

[Reporter] How many weapons have been recovered?

[Merino] I do not have that figure on hand, because the figure changes constantly. The Armed Forces first picked up all restricted weapons. [end recording]

The vice president referred to the first anniversary of the death of the former leader of the Nationalist Republican Alliance and said that that organization continues to grow and will soon begin nominating its candidates for the 1994 elections.

Government, Private Business, Workers Sign Accord

PA1902171793 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 17 Feb 93 p 1

[Text] On 17 February representatives from the government, private enterprise, and the labor sector signed the Agreement of Principles and Commitments, beginning social and economic stabilization. The signatories pledged to respect one another within the existing legal framework.

Some of the highlights of the signed agreement include government relaxation of the recognition requirement for unions, a review of registry rejections, and a relaxation of legal status recognition requirements for state and municipal associations.

State and private employers promised to facilitate union activities, collective bargaining, and ratification of agreements with the International Labor Organization.

Workers promised to respect, care for, and maintain company property. Workers will assist management in finding solutions to work-related problems. Managers will maintain productivity except in cases of financial crisis.

State and private employers will abstain from discriminating against workers with union affiliation.

Forum participants agreed to respect the right to associate professionally and promised to improve work conditions. Unions will take part in creating work center security and hygiene committees.

Creating a tripartite commission to verify compliance of the agreement was considered although there is no new labor legislation. The commission will work closely with the Labor Ministry to solve labor conflicts that arise from legal violations.

Lastly, forum participants signed a commitment of good faith to comply with the agreements. They pledged to develop international and national work to further the country's social and economic development.

"Other than the peace accords, this has been the most important agreement reached," said Hector Vidal, president of the National Association of Private Enterprise. Vidal gave assurances that the National Peasant Worker Unity had promised to stop its campaign for El Salvador to be removed from the general tariff preference system.

The government, private business, and labor sector "have pledged to begin solving major problems, something that Salvadoran society has been awaiting," Vidal said.

Vidal said that the agreement includes "behavior guidelines for the three groups to reach an understanding in situations such as strikes. The forum will deal with credential problems for union leaders." He also said that certain constitutional rules were outlined. The labor code and union freedoms will also be discussed.

Vidal said: "We are going to do everything possible so that the agreements are not broken."

FMLN Supports Central Americian Integration

PA2002220093 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front Party [FMLN] is convinced that Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani will complete the Army purge, the former guerrilla leaders have said.

Salvador Samayoa, a member of the leadership of the recently formed political party, said the party will not exert any pressure because it trusts that the clear stand taken by the UN Security Council is enough to make the government adopt the corresponding measures.

It has been learned that the FMLN yielded in the negotiations with the president for the Armed Forces purge because the same mechanism will have to be implemented in the Truth Commission report, which will reveal the names of the officers responsible for crimes that have been condemned by Salvadorans and the international community.

The FMLN has created a secretariat of international relations that will watch over Central American integration, the political leaders reported. Eduardo Sancho, former member of the FMLN General Command, said during a news conference that the new secretariat will seek to strengthen the Central American integration policy. We support unifying the isthmus and it should include Belize and Panama, Sancho said, adding that to do this we need to have ample relations with all political parties, legislatures, and governments of Central America and the Caribbean.

The FMLN announced that it shares the initiative of integrating the region into the North American Free Trade Agreement signed by the United States, Mexico, and Canada. The FMLN stated that the Central American countries will integrate between 1996 and 1998.

Commentary Views Effects of U.S. Tariff Exemptions

PA2102044493 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 19 Feb 93 p 13

[Unatrributed commentary: "The Salvadoran Case in the General Preferential System, GSP"]

[Text] In August 1990 the U.S. Department of Commerce initiated an evaluation of respect for labor rights in El Salvador with the objective of determining if the country is in violation of any of the U.S Customs General Preferential System tariff agreements (GSP in English). According to the U.S. Government, evaluating the Salvadoran case came about as a result of a request by the union members of the AFL-CIO and "other organizations " (such as the National Peasant-Workers Unity, UNOC).

UNOC involvement in the issue has generated harsh criticism from sectors such as management, the government, and even unions gathered at the recently created Latin American Workers Coordinating Board in El Salvador. The AFL-CIO and UNOC request, however, has focused attention on labor rights issues and on the continued lack of ability demonstrated by the Economic and Social Dialogue Forum (FES).

The GSP allows all member countries to put their products on the U.S. market by paying preferential customs tariffs or, in the best of cases, without paying any tariffs. Suspending the GSP could translate into a drop in the value of exports subject to the GSP, which represent approximately 7 percent of the total 1991 exports. There is the possibility, however, that the Caribbean Basin Initiative (which covered 19 percent of all total exports during 1991) could offer alternatives for those products that would cease to receive preferential treatment.

As the case may be, El Salvador's exclusion from the GSP will have negative effects on production and employment creating the need for an agreement that will prevent labor claims and demands from translating into more unemployment. The report prepared by the U.S.

Department of Commerce contends that the promise to discuss the labor code within the FES is a positive input to El Salvador's GSP evaluation. But the stubborn way in which things are being done in the FES supports AFL-CIO arguments on the labor situation in El Salvador and jeopardizes El Salvador's continuation within the GSP.

Guatemala

URNG Announces Proposal on Peace Negotiations

PA2102174093 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0311 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Feb (NOTIMEX)—On 20 February, Guatemalan guerrillas announced a proposal "to update a number of items still pending" in the negotiations, according to a spokesman for the rebels' political commission.

In a communique, the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] proposed that President Jorge Serrano's government sign, as soon as possible and "with no strings attached," a general human rights agreement that would be effective and whose enforcement could be supervised immediately.

The communique, which consists of five points, demands "immediate agreement" on the mechanisms to determine the participation of civilians in the negotiation process.

According to the URNG, the proposal that President Serrano presented to the United Nations on 19 January would be debated as soon as the "first stage in the negotiations" was completed.

The URNG proposal on continuing the peace talks could also be discussed, "considering present conditions and the participation of new local and international personalities."

The URNG also intends to set dates for "dealing with and settling substantial items on the general agenda" under the National Reconciliation Commission's supervision.

The URNG supervises the active participation in the UN negotiations by countries that support the peace process in Guatemala and by Guatemalan civilians.

"Once this schedule has been completed, terms for a cease-fire, Guatemalan society's demilitarization, and a verified solution to the general agenda's operational items could be negotiated," the URNG document reads.

The agenda for the negotiations was agreed upon in the Mexico Agreement of April 1991.

The URNG stated that compliance with the agreements would be verified by the United Nations, the Group of Friendly Countries, the National Reconciliation Commission, and civilian representatives.

According to the URNG, "the Mexico Agreement established an agenda that cannot be evaded, reduced, or changed in any way."

The URNG stated that once the "first stage of the negotiations" has been completed, the proper conditions would be ripe to discuss Serrano's proposal, "which contains portions that alter the procedures agreed upon in Mexico."

Referring to Serrano's initiative, the URNG feels that "a new stage in the negotiations could be entered. This new stage, if it is handled well and if it contains its original agenda, could be positive."

The government and guerrilla delegations will meet in Guatemala City on 23 February to resume negotiations that were suspended in August.

The parties must continue to consider immediate international verification, the creation of a truth commission, and the enactment and immediate enforcement of the General Human Rights Agreement.

The URNG will be represented by Commanders Rodrigo Asturias, Rolando Moran, Carlos Gonzalez, and Pablo Monsanto. Also representing the URNG at the negotiations will be members of the political and diplomatic commission, which include Francisco Villagran, Luis Beker, Miguel Sandoval, and Luz Mendez.

The governmental delegation will consist of Peace Commission President Manuel Conde Orellana and four high-ranking military officers. The mediator, Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada Toruno, and UN observer Juan Arnaul, will also attend the talks.

Quezada Meets With Envoys on Peace Process

PA1902160993 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada Toruno met on 18 February with diplomatic representatives of a newly-created group to support the Guatemalan peace process. The Venezuelan, Colombian, Mexican, and Spanish ambassadors attended the meeting. Those four countries decided to form a group to support the Guatemalan Government's efforts toward achieving peace. According to the Serrano administration, this international participation will help convey to the world a more objective vision of the peace process. Luis Fernando Jaramillo, Colombian ambassador to the United Nations, gave his opinion about the meeting.

[Begin recording] [Jaramillo] The meeting with Msgr. Quezada has been very cordial. We exchanged ideas and impressions. We received a lot of information and are very satisfied with this meeting. We think he is a great leader in this peace process and it is our duty to support the process, Msgr. Quezada, and the president and to help Guatemala eventually recover the precious gift of peace. Our real goal is to assist, cooperate, and support the president, the peace process, and Msgr. Quezada in

his role as mediator. We are willing to cooperate and help as long as we can be useful in supporting the process.

[Unidentified reporter] [question indistinct]?

[Jaramillo] The group of four, as you can see, and a U.S. representative is also here.

[Reporter] Who else attended the meeting?

[Jaramillo] The Mexican, Venezuelan, and Colombian ambassadors to the United Nations; Dr. Beatriz Rangel, a personal representative of Carlos Andres Perez; the Colombian, Venezuelan, Mexican and Spanish ambassadors; and the U.S. charge d'affaires in Guatemala.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]?

[Jaramillo] I hope they can make substantial progress, and I wish them the best of luck. I hope, as all Guatemalans do, that this peace process can be concluded as soon as possible so that Guatemala may achieve the peace it needs for all its people. [end recording]

Nicaragua

Government Announces Disarmament Plan

PA1902190593 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] On 18 February the government announced a new broad disarmament plan with the chief objective of recovering at least 20,000 rifles that are in the hands of civilians and unconventional forces all over the country. The weapons will be collected during the first quarter of this year, according to a statement by Lieutenant Colonel Rafael Ernesto Cesar, chief of the Special Disarmament Brigade. He added that the second phase of the initial disarmament plan began on 25 January.

Lt. Col. Cesar said that all war materiel found in the hands of civilians and rearmed groups, mainly those living in the country's northern area, will be collected in full during the first quarter of 1993. The Summer Disarmament Plan [Plan Verano de Desarme] is one of several activities to mark Violeta Barrios de Chamorro's third year in office on 25 April.

Military Reports Cite Armed Groups in North

PA2102134593 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] According to military reports, approximately 600 former Nicaraguan resistance members, consisting of several groups, are operating in northern and central Nicaragua. There are also 100 former members of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] who have rearmed themselves as a result of the government's failure to honor agreements that had initially persuaded them to disarm.

The military reports that recontras are operating in the northern part of Nicaragua, mainly in Matagalpa and Jinotega. The military also reports that recompas are operating in Madrid and Nueva Segovia.

A spokesman for the International Commission of Support and Verification-OAS [CIAV-OAS] said that during the months of January and February 1992, the government headed by Mrs. Violeta Barrios de Chamorro was able to ensure a disarming process with these two groups. Chamorro's government collected and destroyed more than 40,000 weapons.

Military officials stated that a group of recompas had detained 50 people for more than 48 hours in Rancho Bonito, located between the communities of Jicaro and Murra in Nueva Segovia. The kidnapped people were released during the morning hours of 19 February.

The leader of the group is former EPS member Henry Centeno who calls himself Tarzan. Centeno demanded that the government provide land and money for his troops in exchange for the hostages.

Military sources stated that although they made no reply to the demands, the hostages were released. The sources also added that the recompas had requested the intervention of CIAV-OAS officials and workers from Cardenal Miguel Obando y Bravo's office of support and verification.

According to reports, it was possible to convince the rearmed group to surrender their weapons and release the hostages.

Army, Police Pursue Rebel Gang for Waslala Murders

PA2002222793 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 18 Feb 93 p 12

[Report by Roberto Orozco]

[Text] Army spokesperson Colonel Ricardo Wheelock confirmed on 17 February that the Army has begun a search for the Northiel gang, accused of murdering two girls and their father on 14 February in Waslala, Matagalpa.

Wheelock said the Waslala massacre was "just one more of the crimes committed by the armed gangs in the north."

The Army is seeking to capture those responsible for the murders of Xiomara and Alma Nubia Davila Perez, 5 and 10 years old, and Juan Davila, their father, who were shot to death by the "Northiel" group.

"I cannot go into detail," Wheelock said when approached by a battery of reporters asking about the incident.

President Violeta Chamorro ordered Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta to investigate thoroughly the

murder of the girls and their father and to capture the culprits, "who will be punished with the full force of the law."

The National Police, acting on orders from Mendieta, sent a group of criminology experts to begin the investigation into the Waslala massacre.

A police convoy commanded by Commander Roberto Gonzalez, Matagalpa Police chief, left for Waslala, 90 km from Matagalpa, on 17 February.

In addressing the situation throughout the country, Wheelock said that "it is very delicate" but said that the problem is "a social, economic, and political one that cannot be resolved militarily."

The leader known as "Guapote" sent the government and military commanders a note announcing that he will not engage in any type of contact or dialogue.

According to military authorities, these groups are encouraged by politicians who maintain contact with the rebels. "The Army has information to that effect," Wheelock said at a news conference held recently by the Presidency Press and Information Directorate.

Air drops of small amounts of supplies also allow the more difficult groups "some breathing room."

"Military counterintelligence has clear information about these air drops for the rebel groups but is still trying to determine where they originate," Wheelock said. He warned that such operations have international undertones.

Fighting between the Sandinist People's Army [EPS], the National Police, and the recontras has left thus far a total of 90 recontra casualties.

A group of recompas led by "Cara de Malo," "Catala," and "Charlie" kidnapped four members of a cooperative in El Manchon, Matagalpa.

The farmers are Ramon Pineda Hernandez, Edgar Martinez Sevilla, Angel Hernandez, and Juilo Campos Oporta. Their hands were tied and they were taken to the community of El Toro. The recompas left Wilmer Martinez Campos, a minor, tied up.

A group of recontras led by Rosendo Castellon, alias Sierrita, and Orlando Siles, alias Flecha, ambushed an EPS patrol on 15 February.

The attack took place in Los Encuentros, 7 km north of Quilali, Nueva Segovia. Lieutenant Julio Manzanares was wounded during the ambush. The number of casualties among the rebels is unknown.

The rebels are headed toward Jiquelite, 12 km southeast of Quilali. The EPS is following them.

A group of four men armed with assault rifles intercepted a passenger bus owned by Julio Huerta in El Portillo, 20 km southwest of El Cua, Jinotega. The criminals stole the passengers' possessions.

UDC Rejects Proposal To Shorten President's Term

PA1902232493 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 19 Feb 93 pp 1, 14

[Text] On 18 February the Christian Democratic Union (UDC), which is the most important political party in the National Opposition Union [UNO], formally announced that it rejected the proposal to shorten President Violeta Chamorro's presidential term and considered that "it is a dangerous adventure" to propose the government's "anticipated termination," as a radical sector of the APO [Political Opposition Alliance]-UNO has proposed.

In a political declaration, which was signed and read by its main leaders at a news conference, the UDC invited the government to "rejoin the forces from which it originated" and proposed "the task" of achieving a national stabilization agreement [acuerdo nacional de estabilizacion] to all the political sectors.

"...as part of a strategy to rescue instead of to destroy the democratic transition process, the UDC believes the government must complete its constitutional and programmatic mandate," according to the document signed by the UDC Political Commission and released at the party's headquarters.

The statement was released two days after the APO-UNO Political Council in "a private pact" pledged to desist from the plebiscite against Chamorro, which they were going to request during the march on 28 February, according to Agustin Jarquin, UDC councilman and leader.

"Our position is that we will not make an issue out of the presidential term, regardless of the procedure used in attempting to reduce it," said Luis Humberto Guzman, a UDC deputy and coordinator of the APO-UNO.

Sergio Ramirez, head of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] faction in the Assembly, praised the UDC's initiative and proposed its immediate implementation.

"I believe the UDC's support of stability is positive," Ramirez said upon expressing the FSLN's resolve to sit down with them and reach agreements that will translate into stability and a legislative agenda that will increase the country's security.

The UDC has proposed legislation on property; reelection of a new National Assembly board of directors; reestablishment of parliamentary commissions; constitutional reforms; reform of the Military Organization Law to establish a term for the Armed Forces commander calculated from 1990; and a national agreement against poverty, among other issues.

Warning that he has no detailed information on the UDC document, Ramirez said it would be disadvantageous for the UDC "to bear the burden of differences within UNO," adding that the UDC's official statement is inconsistent with the campaign that UNO Deputy Humberto Castilla is promoting against the government.

"Our position is formally shared by the UNO Political Council and any opposing opinion is of a personal nature," Jarquin said in response. Castilla's signature does not appear on the UDC document.

The government, the key figure in the UDC proposal and analysis, has not made any comments despite this newspaper's repeated telephone calls to Presidency Minister Danilo Lacayo, who only requested a copy of the UDC document.

The proposal by the UNO's foremost political party is viewed by local analysts as "a defeat" for the extremist positions led by Alfredo Cesar, Miriam Arguello, and Eli Altamirano within the APO-UNO coalition.

BARRICADA was unable to contact Cesar.

Assembly President on UDC Statement

PA2002215993 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 20 Feb 93 p 4

[Text] BARRICADA has been able to verify that the most recent public statement by the Christian Democratic Union [UDC] in which it opposes holding a plebiscite against President Chamorro and calls for a dialogue to promote a national stabilization agreement has been well received by various political groups.

Dr. Gustavo Tablada, president of the National Assembly and leader of the Center Group of the National Opposition Union [UNO], said on 19 February that these groups "are adopting very realistic stands by admitting that the presidential term being cut will not contribute to strengthening democracy and that it is a good idea to request that the UNO government plan be emphasized."

Tablada recommended that the proposal be implemented immediately "because the longer it takes a solution to be reached, the longer the Nicaraguan people suffer the consequences."

He considers "reasonable" the topics on the UDC agenda for legislating the property issue and military and political-social organizations, among others. Tablada even said he would agree to "talk" about changes in the National Assembly leadership, even though he might be one of those most affected.

Sandinist Deputy Dora Maria Tellez said her party greatly agrees with the UDC proposals, which would facilitate an immediate agreement.

"Comrade" Eli Altamirano, a member of the Council of Parties of the Political Opposition Alliance-UNO, said he would not oppose a definite solution to the "crisis of centuries," but he said he believes it "unwise" that the UDC made public its stand without first consulting the other alliance members.

Lacayo Visits Boaco, Discusses Confiscated Property

PA2002224293 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Report by Raul Oviedo y Carvajal from Boaco]

[Excerpt] Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo's visit with several ministers in Boaco was very fruitful. Lacayo also met with farmers, ranchers, coffee growers, and people whose properties were confiscated. On 19 February, Lacayo visited various production areas and farms. He made several commitments to rebuild schools, improve health centers, and make loans to increase production. Progress has been made in this. The government will give impetus to agricultural production and cattle raising, he said.

On 19 February, Lacayo finished a busy working agenda at the Boaco mayor's office followed by a reception at the Central Social Club, where he told owners of unfairly confiscated property who have not received any compensation not to worry because it is coming. He mentioned those whose confiscated properties were turned over to properly legalized cooperatives.

He also made an important announcement: The Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services privatization, already in its final stage, should bring in approximately $200 million, which will be used to pay compensation to owners of unfairly confiscated property. [passage omitted]

Panama

PRD Communique Rejects ARI Approval

PA2002230193 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 20 Feb 93 p A-2

[Communique issued by the Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD, National Executive Committee in Panama City; date not given]

[Text] On 18 February, the majority at the Legislative Assembly, made up of the ruling faction and the Christian Democrats, approved during the third debate the controversial law [Interoceanic Regional Authority, ARI] on the assets to be reverted. Our bloc opposed the bill in a constructive but firm manner. We consider this thoughtless draft bill, rejected during the first debate, to have been hastily elaborated to meet requests that do not serve the national interest to whet the appetite of the ruling class in alliance with those who took office at Fort Clayton.

Many arguments were heard in favor of and against this draft bill. The truth is that the original draft bill, drawn up by a small number of the nation's private sector elite,

went through many changes. The draft bill's original goal was to create a private real estate enterprise that would turn all those national resources into a source of enrichment to further their personal interests.

Proof that they were not enacting a law in favor of the vast impoverished majority was the fact that the ruling faction and the Christian Democratic bloc rejected the PRD proposal to earmark 25 percent of revenues produced by those assets for the Social Security Fund's programs for the old, disabled, and survivors' benefits. This would have strengthened that institution's financial situation.

History, the consciousness raised by General Torrijos at all levels of Panamanian society through his struggle, has allowed us to overcome the mentality of a simpleminded nation that prevailed before 1968; furthermore, the PRD presence on the Multiparty Commission, through Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, and the political debate that this draft bill has generated, prevented those selfish and opportunistic interests from getting it all their way.

In the end, the PRD voted against the draft bill, as it had decided from the beginning, because the ruling faction and the Christian Democratic bloc insisted on upholding the dangerous privatization concept. This gives the authority, though its board of directors and administrator, total power, removed from executive and legislative controls. It also grants the authority the capacity to sell the reverted assets to unknown buyers. These buyers will not be committed to develop, as Panama requires and needs, these areas to generate jobs and offer wellbeing to our people under the Torrijist concept of the broadest possible collective use of the former Canal Zone.

Our bloc voted against the draft bill because, through measures implemented by the law, an ill-fated precedent is being set for the Panama Canal's privatization when it reverts at the end of the century. In this way will be fulfilled a most cherished aspiration that the authors of this law were contemplating even before the invasion.

PRD reiterates what its bloc has pointed out at the Legislative Assembly debates, which have been marked by haste and undemocratic scheming by the Assembly directors, the ruling party faction, and the Christian Democrats in an effort to follow the guidelines of the country's chiefs: The PRD fully rejects the ARI in form, method, and substance.

Consequently, the PRD bloc pledges to revise this law, when political conditions warrant, to introduce substantial changes, thus making available to all Panamanians the benefits of the reverted areas. Only in this way will we be fair to our people and honor all the generations of Panamanians who struggled to recover what belongs to Panama by reason of history and right, what those who cynically and brazenly oppose this struggle and campaign against the Torrijos-Carter Treaties try to profit from opportunistically.

[Signed] PRD National Executive Committee.

Six Labor Unions Form National Federation

PA2002041393 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] The formation of the National Federation of State Workers by six labor unions was announced on 19 February.

The six unions joined together to deal with the privatization issue and other problems that labor unions are confronted with. They announced that periodic meetings will be held to evaluate the situation and adopt decisions.

Balboa port labor leaders Esteban Rodriguez and Roberto McClean addressed the issue.

[Begin recording] [Rodriguez] We will begin once and for all by deciding what steps we will take or the manner in which we will gradually settle each institution's affairs separately.

[McClean] Our main goal is to work together. We will deal with problems as they emerge. We will not deal with them separately but as a whole. We will make the problems of each state institution the problems of all the labor unions that have gathered here today. [end recording]

The labor unions that have joined to form the federation are from the National Water and Sanitation Institute, Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification, National Institute of Telecommunications, and Balboa and Cristobal ports. During the news conference, the labor leaders explained that they are in the process of acquiring legal status for the federation.

Linares: Drug Problem Based on U.S. Consumption

PA1902185093 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 19 Feb 93 p 1

[Report by Carmen Elida Contreras]

[Text] Foreign Minister Julio Linares said on 18 February that the United States "wants to put all the blame on Latin America," although it is the country that consumes the most drugs.

"It wants to put all the blame on Latin American countries, even though it, too, has a lot of responsibility in the matter as its citizens are the biggest drug consumers in the world," Linares said.

The U.S. media policy "is to increase the problem here, not look at how the drug is consumed in the United States, how they launder money that comes from drug activities," the official stated.

According to the foreign minister, Panama's drug problem has worsened. He said: "It is negatively affecting us because it is being consumed here," as the amount of drugs confiscated by the General Customs Directorate indicates.

He reported that a proposal is in the works for the signing of a Central American treaty to make policies that aim to reduce the drug scourge in the region.

Linares made his statements prior to his departure for the Central American presidential summit, which is to be held in Belize beginning 19 February.

The summit will be attended by the six countries of the Central American isthmus. Mexican, U.S., and UK representatives will attend as observers. The purpose of the meeting is to study strategies that will help counter drug-trafficking activities in the area.

President Guillermo Endara will attend the summit. He will be accompanied by Menalco Solis, Public Security and National Defense Council executive director; Rodrigo Arosemena, General Customs Directorate director; and Jose Sierra, Government and Justice Ministry executive director.

Hong Kong Bank Files Lawsuit Against U.S.

PA2002023193 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] The Hong Kong Bank has filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Government in response to charges by the DEA that the bank is involved in money laundering.

Bank President Joseph Salterio said the lawsuit was filed in response to the DEA's constant worldwide charges of money laundering by banks in Panama. These charges have been published on numerous occasions in U.S. newspapers.

In response to these accusations, the Hong Kong Bank ordered an international audit and revision of the internal operations of each of its branches. The audit proved that the charges were unfounded and the lawsuit was subsequently authorized.

[Begin Salterio recording] Our bank is a federation of banks that has its main headquarters in London. Our bank is among the 15 largest banks in the world. We have 3,300 offices in 68 countries all over the world and over 110,000 employees; therefore, such an institution would not even consider getting involved in the money-laundering business, as we have been unjustly accused of doing.

Accusations have also been unfairly leveled against a number of free zone firms. Of the 14 companies that have been named, two are active Hong Kong Bank clients. The others are not our clients. Once we heard the news, we approached our clients and carefully reviewed their operations to ensure they are not involved in any type of criminal activity, and we are totally satisfied with their operations. [end recording]

The Hong Kong Bank conducts its operations with modern high-speed systematized equipment, which makes it quite difficult to review checks from other banks that arrive in stacks.

Salterio explained that although the United States insists on maintaining control of money orders from abroad, they do nothing to control them within their own territory.

Japan Donates Telecommunications Equipment

PA2102165393 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 21 Feb 93 p 7 A

[Text] The Government of Japan, through the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), recently donated telecommunications equipment worth $3 million to the National Institute of Telecommunications' (Intel) training center with the purpose of increasing technology at the institution.

During a ceremony held at Intel offices, Panamanian President Guillermo Endara received the donation from Japanese Ambassador to Panama Yoji Sugiyama.

The equipment donation was made within the framework of the technical cooperation that JICA provides to Intel on matters of technical assistance and professional training.

The donated equipment included digital microwave equipment, optic fiber cable systems with multiplexers, vehicles for rural telephone systems, basic digital circuit equipment, computers for preparing didactic material, generator motors, and miscellaneous materials.

During the donation ceremony, the Japanese ambassador emphasized the role that communications play in technological development. He also announced that his government has sent several telecommunications experts to share their knowledge with Intel officials.

OAS Envoy Signs San Salvador Protocol

PA2102163093 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 21 Feb 93 p 7A

[Text] Lawrence Chewning Fabrega, Panama's envoy to the OAS, recently signed the protocol on San Salvador, which was voted on and approved in November 1988 in El Salvador.

The protocol adds economic, social, and cultural rights to the American Convention on Human Rights. Panama is the second state to ratify the protocol, while Suriname was the first.

During the signing ceremony, Panama's envoy to the OAS stated: "Panama promises to ensure that each family receives the best protection it deserves."

OAS Secretary General Joao Clemente Soares stated that by approving the protocol, the signatories of the American Convention on Human Rights "have recognized the close relationship between economic, social, and cultural rights, and political and civil rights. He stated that these rights are based on the recognition of peoples' dignity."

Argentina

Argentina Not To Press Falklands 'Politically'

PY1902225493 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1932 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Feb (NA)—Deputy Foreign Minister Fernando Petrella has stressed that the Argentine Government "will not use the charter system [of issuing fishing licenses] to politically pressure" the Malvinas Islands authorities into restoring communication with Argentina. He described this method of fishing as "part of the government's (?policy) of opening the economy."

He emphasized that the Argentine Government is engaged in a "transformation from within and without," based on the economic benefits it will reap through the fishing agreements reached with the EEC and under the charter system.

Petrella said that the government wants "to deregulate and open up the country for the people's benefit through a major (?change)—the like of which has not been made during the past 40 years"—by economically opening those areas that can attract major investors.

The deputy foreign minister told NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS: "The charter system has great strategic importance because it totally changes the perspective of relations in the South Atlantic."

The deputy foreign minister pointed out that the Malvinas Islands authorities previously held a fishing "monopoly." He added: "This resource will now be shared with Argentina, which offers better terms to the world."

Concerning repercussions that may result from the implementation of the charter policy in the Malvinas Islands, the deputy foreign minister explained: "We see this as a double error: Believing [words indistinct] hegemonic Argentina as a pressure element, plus the fear of predatory practices."

Petrella explained: "The charter system is being proposed by Argentine economic circles as a way to maximize our offshore resources, but we are not overlooking possible repercussions in the islands." He said the agreement "is beneficial for both sides despite disagreements between the two countries over the duration of the agreement."

Petrella announced that the British want "a long-term agreement on equal terms" while the Argentines want to find out "how many people on both sides make a living from fishing" and thus determine the tonnages to which each side is entitled.

The deputy foreign minister said that the Argentine Government wants "to generate new economic resources," adding that through the fishing agreements "fish and other marine products are being exported more than any other product." The deputy foreign minister believes that contact with the islanders will be resumed "eventually because no one can change the geography of the region." He made it clear, however, that "the Argentine Government is presently not concerned about this issue."

The deputy foreign minister said that the United Kingdom did not establish the agreement between the EEC and Argentina as a precondition for a subsequent charter system. Nevertheless, he admitted that, "at some point, it became part of the negotiations."

The deputy foreign minister emphasized: "With an eye to the future, the United Kingdom does not oppose the agreement with the EEC. The agreement should be signed as soon as possible and be approved by Congress before midyear when EEC chairman (Jacques) Delors is scheduled to arrive."

The deputy foreign minister also stressed that the change of U.S. Administration "will not change our economic activities with Europe," even though Europe buys about 40 percent of our exports.

Petrella emphasized "that the Asian market is growing" following the negotiations based on the charter system which Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella began in China, and then continued with Japan and Korea.

Russian Charge Summoned Over Fishing Feud

PY2002004593 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2335 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Feb (TELAM)—The Argentine Foreign Ministry today demanded urgent intervention by the Russian Embassy in Buenos Aires to force the Orel fishing ship, which was illegally fishing in Argentine territorial waters, "to obey the legal instructions issued by local maritime officials."

The Foreign Ministry reported today that on 14 February the Russian fishing ship Orel was fishing illegally in a zone located 197.7 nautical miles from the Punta Delgada lighthhouse. The ship was detected by the Prefecto Derbes coast guard vessel owned by the Argentine naval prefecture.

An official communique states that upon being detected in Argentine territorial waters, "the prefecture personnel ordered the vessel to stop," but instead of obeying the order it continued on its route to the high seas.

The Foreign Ministry stated that "as a result of the warning shots fired by the coast guard vessel's crew, the Orel stopped and was boarded by the local prefecture personnel," who proved that the vessel had been fishing illegally.

It was reported that the captain of the Orel refused to head for the port of Bahia Blanca, and that consequently the prefecture kept the vessel under custody while Judge Alcides Canale carried out the legal and administrative pretrial inquest.

As the vessel crew refused to reverse its attitude, the Foreign Ministry today asked the Russian Embassy in Buenos Aires "to intervene" in order to make the captain "comply with the instructions given by Argentine maritime authorities."

The Russian charge d'affaires was summoned today to the Foreign Ministry, where he was welcomed by embassy official Vicente Espeche and legal adviser Alberto Davedere.

The Argentine officials delivered to him a note of protest and asked him to contact the captain of the Orel to try to solve the conflict.

The Foreign Ministry has reported that the Orel has not reviewed its illegal situation since 14 February, and that two coast guards of the prefecture are conducting operations to ensure compliance with the existing rules on fishing control.

Bolivia

Foreign Minister on Sea Outlet Aspirations

PY1902204693 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Ronald MacLean, during a news conference, ratified Bolivia's attitude toward its trade relations with Chile and the inalienable right of Bolivians to a sea outlet. He said:

[Begin MacLean recording] We are doing our utmost to create a favorable atmosphere in our trade negotiations with Chile because our country needs that agreement. We negotiated a 10 year trade agreement with Chile in 1982. It expired last year, and now we have to negotiate a new trade agreement for the next 10 years. We have always had a trade agreement with Chile. It is nothing new. This does not mean, however, that we Bolivians are forgoing our legitimate aspiration to an outlet to the sea. We have already discussed this issue with Chilean authorities and I repeat, we will not relinquish that right, which is one of the main concerns of our foreign policy. We Bolivians tend to be somewhat Manichaean. But sometimes it is not just one force; it is a mixture of both. [end recording]

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Netherlands

PY1902215193 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] The Bolivian Foreign Ministry and the Netherlands Government have signed a four-year cooperation agreement to be managed and coordinated by the Netherlands Cooperation Council.

[Begin unidentified Bolivian official recording] We have signed an agreement with the Netherlands Government worth $4.26 million. This non-reimbursable loan will be used to establish a system to collect geographic data which will be used to divide the country into ecological and agricultural areas prior to establishing a database to assess the economic potential of Bolivian natural resources. Four regions have been identified: The high plateaus, the valleys, the Bolivian Chaco, and the tropical area of the Amazon forest. The environment secretary general will be directly in charge of this much sought-after project. [end recording]

The agreement foresees automatic renewal upon its expiry.

Chile

German Defense Minister Ruehe Visits Chile

PY2002122993 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Report by Rafael Illanes]

German Defense Minister Volker Ruehe, who arrived in Chile today on a five-day state visit, met Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma at the Foreign Ministry this afternoon. Once the meeting was over, Silva Cimma informed the press about the salient points of the meeting that lasted more than half an hour. He said:

[Begin Silva Cimma recording] During the meeting we were able to confirm that our countries have a great deal in common. Chile's point of view on political and democratic issues, as well as our economic interests, coincide with those of Germany's. [end recording]

Before meeting Silva Cimma, Ruehe met his Chilean counterpart at the Diego Portales building [Defense Ministry]. He also met Admiral Jorge Hernan Martinez Busch, the Navy commander in chief; General Ramon Vega, the Air Force commander in chief; Carabineros Director General Rodolfo Stange; Investigative Police Director Nelson Mery; and Army Deputy Commander General Jorge Lucar, who attended the meeting in lieu of General Augusto Pinochet, the Army commander in chief.

Upon being asked about Gen. Pinochet's failure to attend the meeting, Ruehe said:

[Begin recording, in German, fading into Spanish translation] That is a decision, something that concerns the host nation. We have met so many important figures that we are very pleased to be here in Chile. [end recording]

Among the most salient points of Ruehe's agenda for tomorrow, let us mention that he and his Chilean counterpart are scheduled to leave Arturo Merino Benitez Airport for Punta Arenas at 0800 local time. They are to arrive at President Ibanez Airport at 1100 and visit the facilities of the 4th Air Brigade. Ruehe's activities in Punta Arenas will conclude at 1800 at the Ojo Bueno military field, where he will watch military exercises.

Cooperation Agreement Signed

LD2002085993 Hamburg DPA in German 0258 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Santiago de Chile (DPA)—Germany and Chile intend to intensify their military cooperation. This was agreed by Federal Defense Minister Volker Ruehe (Christian Democratic Union) [CDU], and his Chilean counterpart Patricio Rojas Saavedra on Friday in Santiago de Chile. The Bundeswehr intends to assist the Chilean Army above all with integration into democratic society.

In the future, more Chilean officers are to be trained at the Officers' Academy in Hamburg. Ruehe stressed to reporters that democracy is now "firmly established" in Chile. With

regard to the Chilean forces, it is now a question of introducing the principle of "citizens in uniform."

Ruehe underlined that the subject of Pinochet and Erich Honecker "played no role at all" in his talks. Honecker has been living in Santiago de Chile with his daughter since 15 January. Ruehe explained that the main point of the visit, as far as he is concerned, is solely to lay the foundations for closer cooperation with the democratic Chilean forces. No arms agreements or other agreements are envisaged. [passage omitted]

Carabineros Arrest Lautaro Chief Melgarejo

PY1902184593 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] The Lautaro commando that robbed a Santander Bank branch in downtown Santiago on 17 February also intended to rob the Citibank and Sudamericano bank branches in the same area.

However, the timely intervention of Carabineros prevented them from carrying out their plan, thanks to the fact that an alarm connected directly to a Carabineros unit from the Santander Bank was activated on time.

It was learned that the subversive group was made up of 11 to 15 individuals. Their objective with these robberies was to obtain publicity similar to the case when they robbed two banks, set up barricades, and left many pamphlets last 29 December on the corner of Manuel Mont and 11 de Septiembre streets.

The Carabineros chiefs gathered this morning to evaluate this important operation in which Claudio Melgarejo Chavez, operations chief of the Lautaro Rebel and Popular Front, was arrested. During the clash he was wounded in the shoulder and leg. He currently is hospitalized in Central Hospital. Two bullets were extracted from his wounds, and if there are no further complications he will be released from the hospital in two to four days.

A strong guard has been placed around Melgarejo Chavez, who will be questioned in the next few hours. Police found he was carrying a 9-mm TZ [as heard] pistol and a lot of ammunition.

Meanwhile, the conditions of Carabinero Lieutenant Luis Mena and Corporal Luis Gonzalez, who were injured in the operation, remain stable, considering the seriousness of their wounds. In turn, injured Corporal Jorge Madrid remains hospitalized but with a less serious condition.

Colombia

Police Arrest Escobar Relatives at Airport

PA1902174793 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1705 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Benjamin Castro report]

[Text] Medellin— A search group arrested seven of Pablo Escobar's relatives and an undetermined number of bodyguards at the Rio Negro Jose Maria Cordoba Airport on the morning of 19 February.

Caracol received information from official sources that the group had been arrested when they were about to depart on Avianca Airlines Flight 060 to Miami, Florida. The arrested relatives are Pablo Escobar's wife, Maria Victoria Henao de Escobar; his children, Manuela and Juan Pablo Escobar Henao; and four of the capo's nephews.

Soldiers and elite police forces also arrested several men who, according to airport sources, are bodyguards for the Escobar family. It was reported that Escobar's relatives had not even been able to get to the airline waiting area, but police still thoroughly investigated the plane's interior and told passengers that it was a routine drug surveillance operation.

Airport authorities reported that Escobar Gaviria's relatives were about to travel to the United States with passports that had the appropriate U.S. visas. They added that their departure was prevented because they did not comply with several immigration requirements. For example, Manuela Escobar Henao, 9, did not have the necessary letter from her father authorizing her to leave the country.

A lady who was also about to take Avianca Flight 060 was temporarily detained because, due to her age and features, she was mistaken for Herminda Gaviria de Escobar, the Medellin drug cartel chief's mother. The confusion, however, was quickly cleared up.

Amid an impressive security operation, the arrested people were taken to Medellin by land at approximately 1145 on the morning of 19 February.

Son Says Drug Lord Seeks Surrender

PA2002172793 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2100 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Santa Fe de Bogota, 19 Feb (EFE)—Pablo Escobar, the Colombian fugitive drug trafficker, wants to give himself up to justice, but the government "will not let him." The announcement was made on 19 February by Juan Pablo Escobar Henao, the 15-year-old son of the Medellin Cartel boss.

Escobar Henao made the statement to the Colombian Radio Network Caracol at the airport in Medellin, where authorities prevented him from travelling to Miami because he did not have his father' written and notarized permission to leave the country.

"My father is absolutely willing to turn himself in. The government is not willing to allow him to do so," said the minor. [passage omitted]

Group Destroys Two Escobar Family Properties

PA1902215293 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Report by Diego Alonso Sanchez]

[Text] Weakening the economic power of Medellin Cartel Boss Pablo Escobar seems to be one of the main objectives of the group Persecuted by Pablo Escobar [PEPES]. In the past few hours they have increased their terrorist attacks on the properties of Escobar and his relatives. On the night of 18 February, unidentified persons went to the Barros Mall, poured gasoline, and set it on fire. The damage totaled 50 million pesos. The mall, located in El Poblado Village, was owned by Escobar's sister-in-law. Early on 19 February, a group of heavily armed men went to a vacation spa in Rio Negro. After warning the manager and residents to flee, they set off three powerful charges of dynamite. The terrorists destroyed three housing structures, a disco, and a stable. The damage is estimated at 500 million pesos. There have now been eight attacks in the past 20 days on properties owned by Escobar and his relatives.

Suspect in Car Bombings Surrenders

PA1902165593 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Jesus Diaz Osorio, alias El Bolis, is allegedly responsible for the terrorist attacks in Santa Fe de Bogota. He appeared very early in the morning at the District Attorney's Office in Manizales looking very nervous. He said: I am the person in the police sketches. I had no part in the incidents, but I am here.

The District Attorney's Office will be in charge of determining Diaz' alleged responsibility in the incidents. The district attorney will then decide whether this man, whom authorities have charged with being one author of the attack, is responsible. A rather beautiful woman about 1.75 meters tall is also in custody. Her family says she had nothing to do with the attacks as she sells jewelry. The authorities have said specific individuals are responsible and that the justice system, of course, will be tasked with determining who they are.

The person who surrendered in Manizales said he did not participate in the attacks, but according to the police who carried out the investigation, there is strong evidence based on statements by witnesses at the explosion scene that points to the person in the police sketches as the one who could have placed the dynamite in the car parked between 9th and 10th Streets near the Olimpia Cinema. By the way, the Olimpia has reopened, as have the other businesses there. They were quickly rebuilt by their owners.

Thus another top leader of the Medellin Cartel surrenders to justice.

Three Suspects Released

PA2102153393 Santa Fe de Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota—Authorities have reported that the three persons arrested in connection with the 15 Feberuary car bomb attack in downtown Santa Fe de Bogota have been released.

The fact that Mrs. Adelina Meza Santamaria and her sons Luis Fernando and Juan Carlo had been near the site of the explosion was determined to be a coincidence. They have returned to their home in Copacabana Municipality, Antioquia.

Upon leaving the Judicial Police and Investigations Directorate where she had been held, Mrs. Meza stated that she had been treated well during her detention.

Attorney General Indicts UNASE Personnel

PA1902191593 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Interview with Attorney General Carlos Gustavo Arrieta by Dario Arizmendi and Judith Sarmiento—live]

[Excerpt] [Arizmendi] The Attorney General's Office has indicted 150 members of the Anti-Extortion and Kidnapping Unit [UNASE]. The investigation involves colonels, lieutenants, majors, captains, and more than 100 noncommissioned officers, policemen, and soldiers.

Good morning Attorney General Carlos Gustavo Arrieta. Does the information published today by EL ESPECTADOR about UNASE come from the report by the Attorney General's Office?

[Arrieta] I have not read the report by EL ESPECTADOR, but I can say this: A while back the Attorney General's Office detected a series of possible irregularities at UNASE in Medellin. As part of its current policy, it proceeded to contact the police and the Administrative Department of Security to arrange a joint investigation of possible irregular activities. The investigation was coordinated by the Attorney General's Office. Police and investigators from the Attorney General's Office have been working for some time. The results were disclosed on 18 February and published on 19 February by EL ESPECTADOR. This is true, and it stems from an extensive investigation by the two agencies.

[Arizmendi] What are the specific charges filed against the 150 Medellin UNASE members?

[Arrieta] You must understand that I cannot give you all the details, but basically we are dealing with abuses of authority. Some of the cases involved such acts as torture, false arrests, and illegal negotiations with kidnap victims and with kidnappers. There is a wide range of irregular actions which these officers are believed to be responsible for. Some of them are already in jail.

[Arizmendi] Based on these announcements by the Attorney General's Office, we will surely hear more from those who are pointing at an attorney general syndrome. This is what they describe as an attempt by the Attorney General Office's to hamper the Public Force's work. What would you say to the people who call this action an attorney general syndrome against the Public Forces?

[Arrieta] The so called attorney general syndrome is nothing more than an excuse for some. In this case, the violations are so evident, so clear, and so obvious that no one would dare mention the attorney general syndrome. This is an investigation promoted by the Attorney General's Office and

jointly carried out with the police at the highest levels. The two institutions are in total agreement on this matter. They are working together, and therefore, whoever calls this an attorney general syndrome is just trying to make excuses.

[Sarmiento] Although this is not directly your responsibility, we would like your opinion on the many reports that we have heard concerning abuses such as torture and false arrests by the Army during this horrible war in Colombia. This is the repressive part; the part where the perpetrators are uncovered and punished. What about prevention? What has the National Police said about this to prevent such incidents from happening again?

[Arrieta] Policies such as this are usually both repressive and preventive. There are many things that can be done to prevent this. There is constant contact between the military and the General Attorney's Office, especially regarding Medellin. Preventive policies do not always have the results one would prefer. Depending upon the circumstances of each case, preventive goals are achieved in part by the Attorney General's Office in Medellin, and in part by the interaction between the attorney general, the district attorney, and the military forces. This interaction takes place in the form of control systems and continuous contacts. However, preventive work is not always as effective as one would wish. [passage ommitted]

Rebel Leaders Confirm Resolve for Agreement

PA2102210193 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1733 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Santa Fe de Bogota, 20 Feb (NOTIMEX)—On 20 February the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CGSB), in a message to the forum on human rights under way in Santa Fe de Bogota, confirmed its interest in achieving a peaceful solution to the armed conflict in Colombia.

"We are hereby confirming our resolve to end via political means the armed conflict in a manner that will do away with the bilateral plan and end the government's impositions," the rebel organization said in the message read at the meeting. [passage omitted]

In the message the guerrillas warned of the threat of a civil war because, they said, "the people are on the verge of exploding over the government's neoliberal policies, which preclude negotiation."

The CGSB, which unites the two largest and oldest rebel organizations in the country, informed the forum, which ends on 20 February, of the constant disappearances, torture, and murders suffered by their members.

"These are not isolated incidents but institutional directives," the rebel front asserted in the message. [passage omitted]

So far in 1993, over 90 guerrillas and 30 soldiers have been killed in clashes in different parts of the country.

New Strategy To Combat Rebellion, Crime

PA2002221393 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 15 Feb p 3A

[Article by Miller Rubio]

[Text] With the support of the FBI, Scotland Yard, the DEA, and the International Police, the Colombian Police will launch a strategy to control the flow of money that guerrillas and organized crime are moving abroad.

The program is outlined in a police document prepared on the week of 14 February that also outlined new operational and organizational goals for the institution in 1993.

The report also contains the results obtained by the police in 1992 in their struggle against violence in Colombia.

The new program against groups of subversive criminals and the drug cartels also calls for strengthening the Police International Affairs Office (OAI) for expediting the flow of classified information.

The base of the program is a detailed analysis of the movement of illegal money, which the police will deliver to these international agencies with specific information obtained by intelligence.

The projections indicate that in 1993 the police will have a new program of international intelligence that seeks exclusively to attack the large financial centers that these organizations control in Europe.

The document points out that the implementation of the program will allow the police to apply the same scheme to weaken and dismantle the networks these organizations use in illegal weapons trafficking.

The police strategy, the report points out, also aims at tightening control at borders with other countries to stop the traffic of stolen vehicles.

On another front, the police expect to take to court the leaders of organizations involved in heroin and cocaine trafficking, organizations that operate mostly in Valle, Antioquia, and on the Atlantic coast.

The document affirms that this objective can be reached only through sufficiently strong evidence, which the Attorney General's Office can use to take the big drug kingpins to court.

The police will strengthen the application of existing human rights principles to improve the system used in their training. This change in training includes a special policy to be implemented this year, which is oriented basically to training investigators for Judicial Police intelligence networks and departments.

Regarding the Judicial Police program—this police force consists of support units for the Attorney General's Office in matters of criminal investigation—there are plans to create 51 additional investigating units in 1993 for a total of 240. These units will have at their disposal a single national file, in which will be collected information from the State

Military Industry Enterprise, the Legal Medicine Institute, the Industry and Commerce Department, the Banking Association, the Prison Directorate, Civil Aeronautics, notaries, the National Transportation Institute, the official land register, the Colombian Communications Enterprise, the General Registry, the Prosecutor's Office, the Administrative Department of Security, the Justice Ministry, the Attorney General's Office, and the Bank Superintendency.

In 1992, the National Police spent 571,023,990 pesos in strengthening its intelligence networks. In addition, 264,660,210 pesos were spent for equipment (binoculars, recorders, microcomputers, video cameras, and portable transceivers).

The institution spent 145,758,780 pesos to buy scanners, computers, and office equipment for the Judicial and Investigations Police.

Regarding criminal investigations, the Judicial Police handled 587 files on terrorism, 438 on extortion, 366 on kidnapping, 510 on drug trafficking, 76 for illegal acquisition of wealth, 636 on vigilante groups, and 356 on homicide.

The police confiscated 28.016 metric tons of cocaine, 184.317 metric tons of marijuana, 35 kg of heroin, and 411 kg of basuco.

Police operations led to the freezing of 70 bank accounts and the confiscation of 1.132 billion pesos from drug cartels.

These activities were conducted in the framework of Operations Alfil, Saturn, Green Ice, and Robledo, which included not only the country but some European nations.

Regarding the control of arms and meeting the need to disarm the civilian population, the police last year seized 17,507 arms and 144 antipersonnel mines. It was determined that more and more AK-47 and R-15 rifles, as well as M-72A2's, are being brought into the country.

On actions against common criminals, the report says 86 explosive devices were defused.

Finally, the document says that, in the struggle against narcoterrorism, the police disabled the Medellin Cartel terrorist wing by killing its leader.

Conservative Party Names Presidential Candidate

PA2002223693 Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 17 Feb 93 p 7a

[Text] The Tolima Department Conservative Party [PC] Convention named Rodrigo Marin Bernal as the party's candidate [candidato suprapartidista] for president. Party members throughout the country offered to serve as his sponsors.

Marin Bernal was presented to the convention by Gentil Palacios Urquiza, a Tolima leader who is also a member of the National Congress.

Palacios Urquiza described Marin Bernal as the best alternative the conservatives "can currently offer to all Colombians eager for moral values, efficiency, safety, and rigorous application of the law in the public administration system."

Marin Bernal explained the program base of the National Salvation Movement "established today as the only serious and certain alternative to the Gaviria administration."

After being named on 11 February at the Tequendama Hotel, Marin Bernal set out on a journey through the El Cesar and Tolima Departments.

On several opportunities he referred to the terrorist activities hanging over Medellin and Santa Fe de Bogota, criticizing the government for its inability to solve the nation's problems.

"It is insufficient to repudiate terrorism with obscure statements read over television by some high government official. Nor is it valid to tell the population that these crimes are perpetrated suddenly and are therefore inevitable."

He pointed out that: "The government is obligated to protect us. It bears heavy responsibility for the decisions that led to the escape of the Envigado prison inmates. It cannot be denied that the origins of the terrorist wave is that disgraceful event. The government can well withhold its expressions of regret, which sound like mere rhetoric, and start doing its job."

During his visits to Tamalameque, San Martin, Rio de Oro, Gamarra, Curumani, Salao, Chiriguana, Chimichagua, and Aguachica, Marin Bernal was accompanied by Isabel Celis, a former Norte de Santander deputy, and Conservative Party leader Cristina Moreno Payares.

Paraguay

Congress Session Called To Discuss Lemas Law

PY2002014693 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Senator Federico Zayas, chairman of the Congressional Standing Committee, today called a special session of the two houses of Congress for the morning of 22 February. Zayas called the session by virtue of the constitutional powers bestowed upon him, amid great controversy over a proposal submitted yesterday to Congress by the executive branch to adopt the lemas electoral system. Zayas himself read the decision adopted by Resolution No. 3.

[Begin Zayas recording] A special session of both houses of Congress has been called to discuss a proposal submitted by the executive branch to amend provisions of the Electoral Code. The session will convene on 22 February, in accordance with the provisions of Article 184 of the Constitution. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Bill Prompts End to Negotiations

PY1902212493 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 19 Feb 93 pp 6-7

[Text] A reliable source reported yesterday that the negotiations being conducted behind the scenes by the Colorado Party, in an attempt to achieve a consensus ticket between presidential pre-candidate Luis Maria Argana and ANR [National Republican Association—Colorado Party] President Blas N. Riquelme, have not met with any success. The source said that the lemas electoral system submitted to Congress yesterday marked the end of the negotiations. At this point all that is left is to wait for the results of the [Colorado Party] convention, which will resume on 20 February.

The negotiations between Riquelme and Argana's supporters began during the afernoon of 17 February, when Argana's envoy, Deputy Victor Hugo Sanchez, met with Riquelme to hold negotiations. The decision to hold the dialogue had been a result of inquiries conducted during the previous days by Argana and Riquelme's supporters, in an attempt to find a political solution to the Colorado Party's crisis.

The solution hinted at the possible achievement of a consensus ticket including Riquelme and Argana, with the withdrawal of [Argana's running mate] Juan Bautista Ybanez, who could in exchange become the ANR president. Party bylaws provide a slight chance for a resolution of the crisis if the three vice presidents of the Colorado Party Executive Board also resign.

The negotiations reached their peak on 16 February, when Riquelme announced that he had given up his senatorial candidacy on the Wasmosy-Seifart ticket. Some of Argana's supporters interpreted Riquelme's decision as an excuse to withdraw from the leadership of the Wasmosy-Seifart ticket, rather than a positive gesture that would allow him to mediate in the internal conflict.

The source said that Riquelme and Sanchez held a long meeting during the night of 17 February at the residence of their friend, Senator Federico Zayas, to thoroughly address ways to solve the crisis.

The source added that Riquelme reportedly consulted with the military leadership about the possibility of achieving a consensus ticket, but that this proposal was rejected as a method of solving the crisis.

It has been learned that the dialogue ended after Riquelme conveyed this decision to Argana's supporters through an unidentified spokesman. During a meeting at the residence of [Colorado Party leader] Carlos Romero Pereira, Argana's close supporters confirmed this rumor. Our sources learned that the lemas electoral system submitted to Congress by the executive branch on 19 February prompted the end of the negotiations.

From now on all that remains is to wait for the results of the convention. Argana's supporters have stated that not only do they intend to block a vote on this, but that they will also oppose the approval of the lemas electoral system.

Laino Warns of Constitutional 'Coup'

PY1902194393 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 19 Feb 93 p 9

[Text] Speaking in front of a little over 100 people last night, PLRA [Authentic Radical Liberal Party] presidential candidate Domingo Laino said: "A true coup d'etat has taken place, a coup against the Constitution." The Liberal Party candidate said that in submitting the lemas electoral system bill to Congress the executive branch has prompted a serious regression in the democratic transition process.

He added that the current political climate and lack of guarantees resulting from the presentation of this bill, which he believes clearly violates constitutional principles, call for an analysis of the current situation the country is experiencing.

He stated: "The political situation our country is experiencing compels institutions, responsible men, and the entire nation to meditate and adopt suitable measures that will allow us to safeguard the democratic transition process, social freedoms, and social awareness, and to ensure the establishment of a new Paraguay for all Parguayans. We are witnessing a lack of responsibility, of social awareness, and a total absence of patriotism—a situation in which the Colorado Party leadership intends to again manipulate the law and the electoral code to try to solve its institutional problems, to the detriment of national interests."

Laino added: "During a meeting of its executive board in October 1992, the Colorado Party had already decided to reject the lemas system as unconstitutional. Today, however, the same bill has been submitted to the Senate. This bill specifically violates Article 230 of the Constitution."

He said: "The Paraguayan people cannot continue beig subjected to the whims, the humor, or the internal squabbles of a single party which is undermining everything that has been achieved so far in the democratic transtion process."

Laino stated: "We should be looking after national interests, Paraguayan interests, not looking for pitfalls and political maneuvers to protect a political party that for 50 years has harmed the country, stolen from the people, and violated human rights. Now it wants to continue in power by disregarding constitutional laws."

Politicians React to Lemas Bill

PY1902222593

[Editorial Report] Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish on 19 February carries a number of articles on politicians' reactions to the lemas electoral system bill submitted to Congress on 18 February.

On page 2, in a 200-word unattributed report, Central Electoral Bourd President Jose Luis Ibarra Llano is cited as saying he is concerned about the possible implementation of the new law.

The report says that he came to Government Palace and said: "I came to learn the details of the lemas electoral system bill, because if it is approved ballot slips may have to

be changed, and there may be other practical implications." The report also cites Ibarra Llano as saying that enforcement of the law would cause difficulties that would be hard to settle within the prescribed electoral period.

An unattributed 400-word report on page 4 quotes Colorado Party Executive Board President Blas N. Riquelme as saying that "we are analyzing the negative and positive aspects of the bill. I'd rather not give an opinion, but I am listening to everyone. Those who are in favor of the law maintain that it will solve the current political problems." Riquelme adds: "However, those who are against the law maintain that it could produce total division between political parties."

On page 5 an unattributed 250-word report cites Colorado Party presidential hopeful Juan Carlos Wasmosy as saying that he opposes the adoption of the lemas system for the next elections, while he is then quoted as saying that "I am not a lawyer, but if the lemas system violates the Constitution I am not in agreement with its application. Now, if someone proves to me that the system does not violate the Constitution, I will not oppose its implementation." The report also quotes him as saying that "I would agree to the lemas system for this one time only, as a sort of salvation for the Colorado Party crisis."

The same report quotes National Encounter leader Guillermo Caballero Vargas as saying that if the lemas system bill is approved, "there will be sort of a coup d'etat, because violation of the law—and especially of the Constitution—is nothing but a coup, which does not have to be bloody because it can also be a legal coup, as in this case."

On the same page, another unattributed 300-word report quotes Authentic Radical Liberal Party presidential candidate Domingo Laino as saying that "Article 230 of the Constitution renders invalid the lemas bill, as it sets forth that the president and the vice president shall be elected by a simple majority... Consequently, any law on a double voting system violates the Constitution."

Also on page 5, a third unattributed 300-word report quotes Isidro Melgarejo Pereira, the representative of the Diaz de Vivar-Frutos Colorado Party ticket, as saying that the lemas law "is absolutely unconstitutional," and cites him as saying that if it is approved, "any old citizen could submit a simple note to the Supreme Court claiming that the law was unconstitutional, and the Court would have to abolish it."

In addition, Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish on 19 February carries on page 5 a 250-word unattributed report citing Colorado Party leader Diogenes Martinez as saying that the Colorado Party autonomous faction would oppose the lemas bill in Congress, because it obviously violates constitutional principles. Martinez is also cited as saying that the government's real intention in connection with the lemas bill remains unknown. The report cites Martinez as hinting that "something has been concealed" with relation to the bill.

Rodriguez Discusses Lemas Bill

PY2002014293 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Commenting on the controversial proposal he submitted to Congress on adopting the lemas electoral system, President Andres Rodriguez today said in the city of Hernandarias that the matter is now in the hands of Congress.

[Begin recording] [Rodriguez] Both houses of Congress will certainly discuss the proposal. The members of Congress will now have to decide whether to approve the proposal or not.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you see it as a solution to the Colorado Party crisis?

[Rodriguez] No. I do not see it as a solution to anything. I do believe, however, that it is necessary to promote a broader participation by all political parties, by all Paraguayan citizens.

[Reporter] Many people believe your proposal is unconstitutional.

[Rodriguez] It may be unconstitutional for some, just as it may be constitutional for others. [end recording]

Argana Discusses Lemas Law

PY2002144393 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 20 Feb 93 p 5

[Interview with Colorado Party presidential hopeful Luis Maria Argana by unidentified journalists during a luncheon; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] Colorado presidential hopeful Luis Maria Argana has said that the lemas law is unconstitutional and not applicable, besides, it would cause what he called "an electoral transculturalization." During a luncheon with journalists, Argana spoke about several issues, and said he never thought of forming a ticket with Colorado Party President Blas N. Riquelme. He also said his estrangement from President Andres Rodriguez was due "to the normal wearing out of relations between two people."

During an informal conversation and with an unusual predisposition to answer questions, Argana answered all the questions from the media. This is part of the conversation he held with the journalists.

[Unidentified reporter] What do you think of the proposal to include the lemas law in the Electoral Code?

[Argana] It is really a very delicate subject because I understand it was discussed in the Chamber of Deputies last year and it was rejected. The Constitution states that a law cannot be discussed twice in the same congressional term. Then there is a procedural problem here.

It is said that the plan is to make the Senate discuss the subject, but it cannot do so because any initiative regarding the Electoral Code must originate in the Chamber of Deputies. That is, to start with, I see procedural difficulties. As for its content, I do not think it is either a good or bad law.

It depends on the country it is applied to and the circumstances in which it is applied.

[Reporter] In case it were approved anyway, what will your position be?

[Argana] In case it is approved and it becomes a law, in case it were not declared unconstitutional and all that, we would run as a Colorado sublemas... and we would not file a writ of unconstitutionality. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Is there still any possibility of reaching an agreement without having to resort to a decision by the Colorado Party convention or the lemas law?

[Argana] I think so. There are always possibilities; there is nothing impossible in this life. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] What happened to the proposal to form an Argana-Riquelme ticket?

[Argana] I don't really know where that came from. [passage omitted]

Riquelme Denies Plans To Join Consensus Ticket

PY1902205593 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 19 Feb 93 p 9

[Text] Colorado Party President Blas N. Riquelme yesterday denied he is planning to join Luis Maria Argana's presidential ticket. Riquelme asserted: "I have decided to keep out of the electoral struggle and will stick to this decision." Moreover, he urged Colorado leaders to reach a consensus ticket as one of the most feasible solutions to the governing party's crisis.

Riquelme denied he is negotiating the presidential elections with Argana and asserted that he is not a candidate for the Colorado Party consensus ticket. "I am Colorado Party president and, honestly, do not want to harbor any expectations regarding my role within the party. I have decided not to get involved in the party's electoral struggle and will stick to this decision." This was Riquelme's answer when consulted about the insistent rumors that he would run for vice president with Argana.

Riquelme voiced his desire to remain equidistant regarding the party crisis, "to see if another candidate surfaces that will help bring peace to the party."

Asked if he is involved in drawing up a consensus ticket he said yes, and at the same time urged Colorado party leaders to find a consensus because this is what the people want.

In the search for consensus, he noted the need for more generosity, mentioning as an example the decision of the Wasmosy-Seifart ticket to give up a candidacy to the Senate.

Riquelme explained that there is no commission in charge of finding a consensus ticket but noted that there are several courses of action available for Colorados.

He mentioned the special convention that will resume tomorrow, the lemas electoral system, the executive branch's proposal to Congress, as well as two alternatives the Colorado Party has to hand to solve the internal conflict and present its candidates for the presidential elections on 9 May.

Riquelme, when asked again if he would step down from the Colorado Party executive board to run on a consensus ticket, ratified: "The only post from which I will not resign, unless I am kicked out, is the presidency of the executive board."

Colorado Convention Recesses Until 27 Feb

PY2102011393 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] A special convention of the Colorado Party today again failed to appoint the new members of the electoral board, after two round of votes during which neither of the two contending factions obtained the required two-thirds majority. The convention has thus again recessed until 27 February.

The convention, which was called to order 30 minutes late, first went into a recess that was intended to last only 30 minutes but which ultimately lasted three hours. Finally, 376 delegates were accredited to attend the convention.

The pro-government Wasmosy-Seifart faction proposed Victor Manuel Nunez as one of the members of the electoral board, while Argana's supporters proposed Julio Cesar Cantero. Two and half hours later, Nunez obtained 246 votes; Cantero, 125 votes; and four votes were left blank. Neither candidate thus obtained the two-thirds majority required to be appointed to the electoral board.

The chairman of the convention then ordered a second round of voting, in which Argana's candidate—Cantero—obtained 126 votes, and Wasmosy's candidate only 244: that is, two votes fewer than in the first round.

While some delegates celebrated the outcome of the vote, others realized that the opportunity to appoint the new members of the electoral board was slipping away.

A committee consisting of three representatives of the two contending factions will negotiate this week to seek a compromise on the names of the new members of the Colorado Permanent Electoral Board [Tribunal Electoral Permanente]. The round of talks in question will begin on 22 February.

Looking upon the vote outcome as a victory, Argana's supporters moved to have the convention recess until tomorrow at 0800, and proposed that a committee of representatives from both movements be created to negotiate names for the electoral board. Wasmosy's supporters agreed to the proposal, but moved to have the convention recess until 27 February. Because the Wasmosy faction had a comfortable majority, the convention decided to recess until 27 February.

The negotiating committee will consist of Diogenes Martinez, Pelagio Ruiz Diaz, and Marcial Quinonez for the

Argana-Ybanez faction; and of Juan Crisostomo Gaona, Antonio Gariazu Amarilla, and Samuel Ramirez for the Wasmosy-Seifart faction.

[Begin recording] [Deputy Victor Hugo Sanchez] I do not have much confidence in the success of the mission entrusted to several delegates, whose efforts will have to be approved by the convention.

[Reporter Anibal Gomez] Why don't you have confidence in them?

[Sanchez] I believe this has been a last-ditch move by the Wasmosy-Seifart faction, and I think that next week they will try to insist on the lemas electoral system proposal. Now that they have failed at this convention—and I know they will also fail with the lemas proposal, because we are going to vote against it—I understand that there can be no solution other than through political negotiations. That is, the leaders of our respective movements, without any kind of interference, should find an agreement that will be beneficial to the Colorado Party. [end recording]

After the convention adjourned today, some delegates expressed their confidence that a solution would be found to the Colorado crisis. Yet the alternative being considered may only prolong the crisis.

A proposal by the Wasmosy group could further extend this already lengthy story. Wasmosy's supporters want Wasmosy and Argana to give up their presidential candidates, and have the Colorado Party appoint a compromise candidate.

Dr. Juan Manuel Cano Melgarejo said it is important to agree on the men who will serve on the party's electoral board. He noted, however, that it is even more important to reach an agreement on a presidential candidate, because the Colorado Party will lose votes if either Argana or Wasmosy is nominated as presidential candidate.

Angel Roberto Seifart endorsed Cano's remarks.

[Begin recording] [Seifart] That would obviously solve the basic problem, because the reorganization of the party's electoral board is only a step toward a final solution. The presidential candidacy is obviously the main issue.

[Gomez] Do you think that after all the things that have happened a compromise candidate is still feasible?

[Seifart] That question should be addressed to all Colorado leaders, because to compromise means to reach an accord, an agreement by all contending factions and leaders. It means to reconcile interests. There is no easy answer to your question.

[Gomez] Would a compromise candidate entail the resignation of Argana and Wasmosy?

[Seifart] I believe that should be the starting point...

[Gomez, interrupting] Could either of them be the compromise candidate?

[Seifart] ...because if we are going to talk about a compromise, we have to bring in a third candidate. [end recording]

Upon learning about the new proposal of the Wasmosy faction, Diogenes Martinez, legal representative for the Argana-Ybanez movement, stated that the above negotiating committee would not seek any compromise candidate because it will not be empowered to do so. The committee will seek a compromise on the fifth candidate to the electoral board—which consists of five members—after each faction has proposed two candidates each.

[Begin recording] [Martinez] We have been appointed by the convention to seek an agreement on the new members of the electoral board. It will not be our mission to seek a compromise candidate for president or vice president of the Republic.

[Gomez] Do you see any possibility of considering a compromise candidate in spite of the results of the Colorado primaries?

[Martinez] We are not empowered to do so, and I am not used to overstepping my authority.

[Gomez] As the legal representative of your movement, do you see any possibility for a compromise candidate?

[Martinez] I cannot make any decision like that without the consent and authorization of my movement. [end recording]

In conclusion, we will have another week of negotiations and another week without a solution to the Colorado internal crisis. We will see what happens on Monday [22 February, when Congress is scheduled to meet to consider the lemas electoral system bill introduced by President Rodriguez].

Extension of Candidate Registration Discussed

PY2002153993 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 20 Feb 93 pp 2, 3

[Text] JEC [Central Electoral Board] President Jose Luis Ibarra Llano met yesterday with the presidents of the two chambers of Congress. They reviewed the possibility of extending the [presidential] candidates' registration deadline (scheduled for 9 March). Ibarra Llano told the presidents of the two chambers of Congress that if such an extension is established, it should not exceed 15 days (23 March).

Ibarra Llano made it clear that such an extension might be unnecessary if the lemas system bill is approved. He noted, however, that, if the extension exceeds 15 days, it would be difficult for the JEC to organize the 9 May elections.

The JEC president indicated that even though the lemas bill might pose difficulties for the JEC's job because it is a new system, the JEC will be able to overcome these difficulties, although it requires a reasonable period between the candidates' registration and the elections.

Extending the candidates' registration deadline should take place by making another Electoral Code amendment through a bill.

Thus far, the bill has not been presented, even though the executive branch is expected to send it to Congress in the next few days. If the executive branch actually sends the bill to Congress, it will have to issue another call to hold special sessions because the call issued a few days ago was meant to specifically discuss a bill introducing the lemas system.

Mechanism

Even though the executive branch might send the new decree calling special sessions along with a bill extending the deadline for the registration of candidates, the issue may be raised by either of the two chambers of Congress. In order to call special sessions, it is enough to receive the support of one-fourth of the members of either chamber of Congress. The bill may be presented by any legislator. It is appropriate to believe that the issue will be raised in the Chamber of Deputies.

Court President on Impeachment Request

PY1902224993 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 19 Feb 93 p 8

[Text] Attorney Geronimo Irala Burgos, acting president of the Supreme Court of Justice, has labelled as ignorant the lawyers who requested the intervention of the executive branch over an eventual impeachment of Supreme Court members. He added that it is a basic question of constitutional law.

Irala Burgos said: "Obviously the executive branch cannot intervene. What I find even more regrettable is that some lawyers are asking the president to intervene when it is a basic question of constitutional law. Only the legislative branch can order an impeachment."

Irala Burgos noted that the request for the executive branch's intervention is bad for two reasons: First, because it demonstrates ignorance and, second, because it shows their subordination to the executive branch which is not empowered to order an impeachment nor to adopt direct measures against members of the Supreme Court.

Asked about the possibility of a political partisan reason behind the attempt to remove Supreme Court members, Irala Burgos said that he did not wish to stir up that issue because his comments could be distorted.

Irala Burgos stated: "The Supreme Court will not yield to any pressure. If we are impeached, we will defend ourselves and hope that the results will be in compliance with the law." He added that, personally, he does not think there is any reason for an impeachment.

He said that the decision to impeach must be approved in Congress by a two-third vote, adding: "I believe they will be sensible and act with a sense of justice." The group of lawyers that requested the impeachment charge that the Supreme Court protected some justices who were charged with malfeasance in office.

The request was signed by Julio Regis Cabrera, Reinaldo Ortega, Gladys Rambado, Nelson Garcia, Lyzzy Sanchez, Ramon Aquino, and Jose Luis Olmedo.

Lawsuit Filed Against Candidate Wasmosy

PY2002164593 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 20 Feb 93 pp 12, 13

[Article by correspondent Juan Carlos Salinas]

[Text] Ciudad del Este—Hilda Figueredo de Cardozo, widow of German Cardozo Gayoso, filed a formal criminal lawsuit against several directors of the Conempa [Consortium of Paraguayan Construction Companies] and CIE [Electromechanical Engineering Consortium] companies, explicitly naming Juan Carlos Wasmosy [Colorado Party presidential hopeful and one of Conempa's owners], Hugo Aranda [another Conempa owner], Anastacio Acosta Amarilla [Itaipu Binational Entity legal adviser], and Colonel Jorge Caballero, who at the time was commander of the local border battalion, for the violent death of some workers who were on strike, reinforcing the legal actions that began two years ago with investigations.

The charges that were filed include homicide, murder, battery, and other similar charges, which were committed in the access area to the work site of the Itaipu hydroelectric dam at noon on 12 December 1989.

On that day, several striking workers from Itaipu contracting companies like Conempa, Unicon [expansion unknown], and Contecno [expansion unknown] who were camping 700 meters from the access doors of the Itaipu working site, at the side of the highway to Hernandarias, were attacked by surprise by members of the Army, Navy, and the Itaipu security force. The plaintiff says this shock force was headed by Wasmosy himself. "Armed as if to confront the most powerful enemy army, they shot at the striking workers with orders to kill them," the writ states.

The lawsuit states that "these men, who were part of the Armed Forces and were entrenched there, began marching toward the camp of the striking workers, shooting at them without mercy. After a long moment in which the resounding noise of machine-gun fire could be heard, amid the orders shouted by the officers and the crying shouts of the men who were injured, followed the muffled crying of the men who had thought the military that was present there was going to guarantee their safety and not kill them. My husband, German Cardozo, and another colleague named Hermelindo Benitez were killed there."

It must be remembered that the strike was declared to demand social benefits such as compensation for dangerous and unhealthy working conditions, a 33 percent compensation for vacation salaries, housing assistance, and other labor claims that "the Itaipu Binational Entity and the contracting companies had promised in principle to pay to the workers, promises they did not comply with, and which started the strike, which was a civil and not a military action."

Military To Improve Safety in Ciudad del Este

PY2002152193 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 20 Feb 93 p 11

[By correspondent Hector Guerin]

[Excerpt] Ciudad del Este—President Andres Rodriguez announced that there will be a military intervention in this city in order to guarantee the safety of local inhabitants. He also said the lemas law is necessary "to provide greater opportunities for participation to all the existing political parties in the country." The chief of state dedicated a housing complex built by Conavi [National Housing Council] in Hernandarias.

Rodriguez said he will immediately adopt the measures necessary to bring greater security and tranquility to Alto Parana Department inhabitants. He said the Alto Parana Council of Support for Safety and Development asked for military intervention in the department.

Given this petition, General Rodriguez said, the department will be intervened and the operation will be carried out immediately. As a first step it has been decided to increase the amount of troops in the 3rd Cavalry detachment.

He also said that in the next few days General Mario Barreto, 3rd Cavalry Division commander, will arrive in the department to help local authorities coordinate the work of the military troops who will reinforce the security forces in this part of the country.

The president of the Republic said: "Gen. Barreto will help the local authorities because I know there are people who are losing interest in making investments in the area due to the lack of security. It would be a loss because we know money seeks security and guarantees, and wherever there is money there are labor sources." [passage omitted]

Minister Asked To Press Brazil on Itaipu Dam

PY2002144793 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 19 Feb 93 p 13

[Excerpt] On 11 February Dr. Juan H. Palmieri, the mines and energy under secretary, sent a note to the foreign minister describing the worrisome perspective of Itaipu's finances. In his note, Palmieri describes this issue as being of "paramount importance" and asks the foreign minister to pursue his negotiations with the Brazilian Government in order to solve the situation.

Following the chronic arrears incurred by Brazilian electric companies in their payments to Itaipu Binational, the latter's income has been reduced in geometric progression and has accumulated obligations that it cannot meet.

The situation deteriorated to such a point that real income barely totalled $26 million in January while the average monthly billings should not total less than $170 million.

This represents a deterioration of an extremely difficult situation since the 1992 average monthly income totalled $75 million, which is not even half the aforementioned minimum average.

In his note, Palmieri admonishes: "With such a puny income as that collected in January, Itaipu Binational has been unable to meet its obligations and its accounts payable have increased substantially. The accounts payable to Paraguayan suppliers and contractors totalled about $40 million on 31 January."

Palmieri's note adds: "Therefore, in January Itaipu Binational was unable to pay Paraguay's January fees, totalling $16.3 million, and December 1992's $6.3 million overdue fees" (only $17 million of the scheduled $23.3 million was paid on 17 December).

Palmieri sent this note after a request made by the current Paraguayan director of Itaipu Binational, engineer Miguel Luciano Jimenez, who, in turn, alerted the under secretary in a note dated 5 February. [passage omitted]

Russia To Establish Honorary Consulate

PY2002181693 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 20 Feb 93 p 14

[Excerpt] Soon Russia will establish an honorary consulate in our country, with which the diplomatic relations between the two countries will be initiated. Dr. Oscar Cabello Sarubbi, the Foreign Ministry under secretary for general affairs, reported yesterday that a note from the Russian Embassy in Buenos Aires (Argentina) was received, expressing their intention to maintain diplomatic relations with our country in order to enhance the commercial, cultural, and technological fields, among other fields.

The Russian Embassy's note proposes engineer Igor Fleischer as honorary consul. Fleischer is the Association of Russians and Russian Descendants in Paraguay (ARIDEP) vice president. Engineer Natalia Sryvalin is the ARIDEP president.

In this regard, the under secretary said the Foreign Ministry has accepted both the Russian petition to establish a diplomatic mission in Paraguay and the candidate for honorary consul, bearing in mind the importance of having a Russian Government representative in our country.

For the consulate to be established in our country, Dr. Cabello said engineer Fleischer must present the Paraguayan Foreign Ministry with credentials, a document required in these cases that must be issued by the Russian Government (located in East Europe). [passage omitted]

Paraguayan Airlines Becomes Corporation

PY2102014993 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 20 Feb 93 pp 20-21

[Text] Established in 1963, LAP [Paraguayan Airlines], the only Paraguayan airline providing international flights, was incorporated yesterday and will bear the name of Paraguayan Airlines Inc. [LAPSA]. The measure taken by the government, which will be the sole owner of LAPSA's capital shares, paves the way for the privatization of the company. Dr. Aurelio Concepcion Varela Amarilla is the new chairman of LAPSA's executive board.

A Council of Ministers meeting held yesterday morning at Government Palace and chaired by General Andres Rodriguez was a decisive step in transforming LAP into LAPSA. In other words, Paraguayan Airlines will henceforth be called LAPSA.

The Paraguayan airline company's new name was confirmed by Finance Minister Juan Jose Diaz Perez, who is also the Privatization Council president, upon leaving the ministers' meeting with President Rodriguez. During their meeting the only issue discussed was the former LAP.

The legal formalization of the new corporation was carried out yesterday at the government chief notary's office, thus ending the 30-year existence of Paraguayan Airlines. The airline company was created on 18 March 1963 through Decree No. 337.

Flying Toward Privatization

LAP's transformation into a corporation is aimed at expediting the paperwork for its privatization. The company is now meeting the Privatization Law's requirements. And according to Minister Diaz Perez, every effort will be made to negotiate the sale of the company's shares.

In becoming a corporation the company's shares are entirely owned by the state, which would take over the liabilities. LAP's—currently LAPSA's—estimated debt reportedly totals $40 million. This package already includes the $12 million that were recently granted, plus the already existing $22 million and other minor obligations.

Air Route Its Greatest Asset

The finance minister yesterday stressed that the company's air route is the company's best asset, because most of the company's airplanes are of the "leasing" [preceding word in English] type, leased from the Irish GPA [expansion unknown].

The company also owns various properties, including a very important one in Buenos Aires whose estimated value is reportedly $3 million.

Paraguay Signs Agreement To Microfilm Archive

PY2102185693 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 20 Feb 93 p 37

[Excerpt] Paraguay's Supreme Court and the U.S. Government yesterday signed an agreement at the Palace of Justice whereby the United States will fund the microfilming of the archives seized at the Investigative Police headquarters and at the Technical Affairs Directorate [in December 1992].

The agreement, which was worked out with the U.S. AID at the request of Paraguay's Supreme Court, provides that the U.S. Government will contribute $40,000 in aid to be earmarked for paying for salaries, infrastructure, stationery, and equipment.

The Paraguayan Government will contribute $28,000, to be allocated for similar purposes. The aid the government will receive to preserve these archives will be used for sorting, classifying, and microfilming the documents. [passage omitted]

Taiwanese Company To Build Iron Alloy Plant

PY2002224193 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 19 Feb 93 p 14

[Excerpt] Industry Deputy Minister Ruben Fadlala, who visited Taiwan at the invitation of the Taiwanese Government, reported upon returning from that country that the iron alloy plant that will be established here represents an estimated investment of between $40 and $50 million. A feasibility survey conducted by the company was favorable, and the official presentation to the Investment Council will be made over the next few days.

"It represents an old dream," said Fadlala. He pointed out that the company based its surveys on the comparative advantages offered by Paraguay, including Law No. 60/90 on the encouragement of investment and the abundance of hydroelectric energy and manpower. If the process develops normally, the plant will reportedly be operating here next year.

Fadlala also reported on his talks with an important Taiwanese textile businessman who is also interested in investing in Paraguay. This project involves an integral textile plant with a complete cycle ranging from cotton ginning to the manufacturing of fabrics. The scheduled investment totals about $30 million.

Fadlala emphasized that the feasibility survey will be completed in March. He noted that if it is actually established, this plant will represent a very important contribution to our industry, because it involves a high productivity company that only uses advanced technology. [passage omitted]

Peru

APRA Members Consider Resignation of Garcia

PY2002002693

[Editorial Report] Just one week before the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance Party, APRA, holds its national assembly on 19 February to discuss party programs, several newspaper articles reflect the dissident position upheld by some APRA leaders over the current APRA leadership.

Lima EXPRESO in Spanish on 9 February publishes on page A5 an unattributed 500-word article in which Aristides Haya de la Torre, who is described as "a representative of the renewal factions struggling to open the party" and a former president of the National Planning Institute during Alan Garcia's administration, states clearly that "the time of former President Alan Garcia inside the party should be considered over although he could still act as an adviser."

Aristides Haya de La Torre states that reforms within the party should first be based on a diagnosis of Peruvian reality and then on a review and reconsideration of the party doctrine. He states that there is the need to review the terms

"anti-imperialist," "integration," as well as the hypothesis of social revolution and other APRA concepts.

The same edition carries, on page 22, a 1,800-word article by Andres Townsend Ezcurra, a former APRA member and senator, who stresses the need for "renewal" within the party. He states: "It is my duty to draw some conclusions following the showing by the APRA in the last municipal elections."

He continues: "From being the first political force in the country mobilizing, even in hard times, at least one third of the voting population, the once famous party of Haya de la Torre currently mobilizes humiliatingly small figures."

Townsend states: "Such acute unpopularity undeniably demonstrates the discredit and clamorous unpopularity of those who led the party in a way that tragically ranges from incompetence to immorality."

Since the "colossal failure of Mr. Garcia's administration," the APRA has been at the center of the "harshest criticisms and disappointment" among the citizenry. The party that predicated and practiced morality has been run by "corrupt and immoral" individuals. The leaders that came after Haya de la Torre "merely sought, by any means, many sources of shameless wealth."

He continues: "So many shifts and disasters have lead us to an irrefutable truth: that the Peruvian APRA party, with its long and prestigious history in Latin America, has ceased to exist as we knew it." Townsend states: "It is again time to struggle and to perform!" The APRA "must be refounded and remade by mobilizing its many young followers who have always known how to mobilize the Peruvian people."

Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish on 11 February carries, on page 9, a 2,000-word interview with Carlos Calderon Carvajal, member of the APRA political committee and former deputy, who is described as the "current conspicuous sponsor of the 'Generation on the Way'" faction. He states that Alan Garcia's leadership from Colombia is nominal: "Garcia has not led the party for the past few months. No one can do it by fax. The responsibility for what is happening is here, not in Bogota."

Calderon defines the faction he heads as "a factory of political ideas to reform the APRA." To counter the supremacy of independent candidates in the past municipal elections, he says: "We want to change our program and our interlocutors." Calderon maintains that "the scene has changed and so have the actors, therefore we must modify the script." He says that the "over-predominant state is no longer a valid option, although the role of the state as a regulator of the economy and promoter of development" must be preserved.

Calderon admits that the economic development model of the past APRA government was bad. "The concept that the state should provide work for all its followers was mistaken," Calderon states, adding that "his party did not correct on time its deficient economic management."

As for the subject of corruption within the party, he claims that corrupt members have been dismissed. "They were isolated cases and the public will sooner or later forget them," Calderon concludes.

On the same date, Lima EXPRESO in Spanish publishes, on page 22, a 1,200-word article by APRA leader Hernan Garrido-Lecca datelined Jakarta, Indonesia, in which he says that the APRA National Executive Committee should resign "out of respect for the grassroots organizations and given the urgent need to organize an Action Command to conduct a process of self criticism and modernization, which we so much need."

Although Garrido-Lecca goes to great trouble to explain his "respect and recognition" for Alan Garcia he states: "The APRA is not Alan Garcia and Alan Garcia is not the APRA." He adds: "We have complied with comrade Alan Garcia and now he must comply with us. He must resign as secretary general of the party. The situation of the party demands an immediate response; a response that requires the creation of an Action Command imbued with knowledge of the current political situation and capable of coordinating the efforts of the best cadres of the party to modernize it."

He continues: "We must clearly say that most of us believe that the eventual candidacy to the presidency by comrade Alan Garcia is, in light of current events, neither desirable nor acceptable."

Garrido-Lecca concludes that the APRA must "demonstrate to the Peruvian people that we are capable of implementing a good public administration," for which "we must begin by supporting the administration" of APRA candidates who won in the past municipal elections in the different municipalities of the country.

Leader Discusses Need To Renew Party

PY1902160593 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 11 Feb 93 pp A2, A3

[Text] In a gesture significantly opposed to the current leadership of the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance, APRA, and in favor of the petitions for renewal within the party, Abel Salinas, president of the Conaplan [National Planning Commission of the APRA], told EXPRESO yesterday from Buenos Aires that his party urgently needs to update its program and organization.

After saying that this requires regarding Peru with realism, mainly through an internal democratic exercise without restrictions, Salinas said that discrepancies should be allowed, that party members should learn to respect each other, and that the old authoritarian and hegemonic practices must be put aside.

All this should be approved through clear and transparent consultations with the grass-roots organizations in which the leaders must put aside their selfish interests and exercise pedagogic work about the many world events.

This will allow the party members, he said, to learn and make the appropriate decisions instead of guiding themselves by "slogans" or superficial phrases. "The information must not get through in the way the leadership wants, according to their own interests, like in the case when a consultation was carried out to decide whether the party would participate in the CCD [Democratic Constituent Congress] elections," Salinas said.

Abel Salinas emphatically asserted that suggesting changes or renewal proposals does not mean going against the APRA principles but, on the contrary, it represents the assertion of the thoughts and actions of Victor Raul Haya de la Torre [APRA founder], who was a man who constantly improved his ideas.

"In no way should loyalty be confused with submission and obsequiousness. We are faithful to the APRA's ideals, and our commitment is to the people and not to the interests of some leaders," he said as he expressed his support for the reestablishment of an APRA ethic and the election of clean leaders.

As for the recent municipal elections, Salinas said: "We have simply been defeated. It is not a matter of obtaining bigger or smaller percentages. The party's main problem right now is that it is increasingly estranging itself from the possibility of representing the majority of the Peruvian people. We are not having success in this area," he said.

Most APRA followers were not willing to vote for Luis Alvarado [APRA mayoral candidate in Lima]. Despite the respect he inspires, he was not the ideal candidate. These are the kind of things for which the CEN [APRA National Executive Committee] must answer, especially APRA acting Secretary General Mercedes Cabanillas, he said.

However, Salinas said the election results can be understood as a confrontation between independents and the political parties. "The independents do not obey either a doctrine or ideology. People vote for them because they are disoriented; they are betting on something informal."

This was exactly what the political parties, chained to their old structures, did not foresee. They considered the problem of the independent candidates an economic problem rather than a social one, he said.

In order to modify the situation, a programmatic convention as proposed by the CEN is not enough. Besides, he added, "It is a great mistake that the party leadership should sponsor this kind of event because, according to our experience, these conventions only serve to allow those who are responsible for our current disaster to clean up their image and justify their mistakes."

"What we have to do is to go instruct the grass-roots organizations, talk with them, and not impose things on them. A renewal is an urgent need, but we must maintain our principles," he said.

Salinas agreed with the proposal of refounding the APRA. "The proposal made by Conaplan is to totally review the party's program and organizational aspects. We should prepare the young so they will be capable of writing 60 more years of APRA history," he said.

"So far we have had a leadership that has mistaken its path. The results are evident: The APRA is becoming smaller every day," he said.

"In order to correct the state of things, the first thing is to establish an APRA ethic. The leadership should be made up of people with a clean and transparent past and who cannot be accused of anything. In this manner there will be moral authority to conduct the party and summon the people and, above all, remove the corrupt members," Salinas stated.

Garcia Places Post at Party Disposal

PA2102040493 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] Alan Garcia, former president of Peru and current American Popular Revolutionary Party [APRA] secretary general, who is under political asylum in Colombia, has placed his post at the party's disposal in a letter addressed to the followers of Victor Raul Haya de La Torre. On the evening of 19 February APRA members commemorated their traditional friendship day. Former APRA senator Javier Valle-Riestra has described Garcia's decision as positive.

Although lacking the presence of the large number of members who crowded APRA headquarters in better times, the leaders, who commemorated Haya de la Torre's 98th birthday, denied that APRA is governed from the outside by Garcia.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] APRA commemorated its friendship day on 19 February. What do you think of Garcia's placing his post at the party's disposal?

[Valle-Riestra] I think he did the right thing because his term had been very controversial. He is right to relinquish the honor and not to try to be former president of Peru and remain as party secretary general. His decision to exit, either temporarily or definitively, is excellent for APRA and Peru's democracy. His stand is a positive one. [end recording]

Fujimori on Education System, Investments

PA2002160093 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori has asked Congress to establish rules concerning profits earned from education. This is an issue that in recent days has produced discrepancies between the Executive Branch and some schools which have failed to comply with government norms. The president also said that the first Administration for Pension Funds [AFP] will begin functioning in May.

The president made these statements while closing the symposium entitled Peru as a Market for Capital.

The president emphasized the advantages that the new investment law awards investors who are willing to bring

their money to Peru. He said that the Peruvian market will be enhanced when the AFP begins functioning.

[Begin Fujimori recording] As of 21-27 February, with the publication of norms authorizing the establishment of the AFP, the superintendent will begin accepting and evaluating applications for AFP offices.

This institution has designed an intensive work program that will make possible the presence of the first AFP in our market. [end recording]

With regard to the program for structural changes in the economy, the president outlined some of the achievements secured in 1992 by the privatization program. He said that in a year's time the Private Investment Promotion Commission privatized twelve enterprises in transactions that yielded a total of $265 million in cash and $700 million in promissory notes. This year, 40 state enterprises are expected to be sold.

[Begin Fujimori recording] Some of the most important enterprises that we will privatize in the next few months are Transoceanic Oil, Central Peruvian Mining Enterprise, the Peruvian State Mining Enterprise, Electro-Lima, the Peruvian State Iron and Steel Enterprise, Varamunda, the State Fishmean and Fish Oil Production Agency, and the telecommunication enterprises. [end recording]

The president's main focus dealt with the education issue. He urged people to invest private capital into education. He strongly criticized educational associations which make profits at the expense of the people and which benefit through tax exemptions. Stop the hypocrisy, the president said in announcing the strengthening of free, nonprofit education.

[Begin Fujimori recording] The state must strengthen free education. I am not speaking of education in huts or education without notebooks. I am speaking of decent schools. We are also going to strengthen true nonprofit education. We are going to support it firmly because it deserves our respect and admiration. But we are not going to condemn private investments in the education sector. We are going to encourage them because they are very necessary.

Would it not be more honest and practical if the Constitution would accept and establish regulations on the earnings produced by private education? This way we would be putting an end to a most subtle kind of tax evasion.

I believe that we are going to continue defeating backwardness. I believe that we will continue marching toward a different Peru, where all Peruvians will be free and no one will be exploited or manipulated. This will be a people who will be able to build their own future and that of their fatherland. [end recording]

Discusses U.S. Support, Human Rights

PA2102032693 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori has announced that the immediate U.S. participation in the Support Group is in danger and that the U.S. Government reportedly disagrees with Peru on the human rights issue. This disagreement is unjustified, however, as proven during Fujimori's recent visit to Lima's prisons, where a climate of order and respect for human rights prevails.

This disagreement could prevent the country's international financial reincorporation on 24 February. The president also explained the measures being taken to improve the schools.

[Begin recording] [Fujimori] Economy Minister Jorge Camet is in continuous contact with the IMF and World Bank authorities, the two institutions on whose payments we have fallen behind. We must update those payments. I must also report the U.S. Government has made certain remarks regarding the respect for human rights in Peru. I think this is the result of misinterpretation, probably misinformation, because in Peru, as the journalists present can confirm, there is a marked change in respect for human rights. This assertion can be observed in the way we treat those accused of terrorism. Contrary to reports, no one is tortured. Not one journalist or intellectual is being persecuted, as reported. The police, however, conduct thorough investigations. Once a particular situation is clarified, the judicial system takes over.

[Unidentified reporter] [words indistinct]

[Fujimori] Exactly on the evening of 19 February, during the Council of Ministers meeting, we created a commission to promote Peru's image. This commission, which will be known as Pro-Peru, is headed by the minister of industry, commerce, and integration and is also formed by the economy minister, the president of the Private Investment Promotion Commission, and the president of the National Confederation of Private Business. We hope to carry out a drive to disseminate information on the progress attained in every field in the past two and one-half years.

We also discussed the plan to amend Article 30 of the Constitution, which deals with education. This article states that education shall be imparted on a not for profit basis. Under this provision, as I said 19 February, however, it is not acceptable that secondary schools, academies, and some universities make large profits and then refuse to pay income taxes. The idea is not that education cannot be provided for profit, but that this profit should not be concealed. The proper procedure is to file an earnings statement on profits, which of course is subject to the payment of taxes. [end recording]

Peru Sends Solidarity Message to Banana Summit

PA1202144793 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Guayaquil—The U.S. and Peruvian Governments sent messages of support and solidarity to the seven Latin American presidents who met in Guayaquil on 11 February to take up a joint stand in opposition to the EEC. [passage omitted]

In addition, Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori said in a speech that he shares the interest of the other Latin American nations in lifting the protectionist measure that the EEC would apply to the bananas produced in the region. Peru will back the actions agreed upon at the summit because he is certain these actions will help international understanding of the countries' efforts toward modernization and incorporation into the world economy, Fujimori said.

Agreement With University To Train Legislators

PY2002145093 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 11 Feb 93 p A4

[Text] The Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD] is grappling with the problem of an excessive work load due to bills that continue to pile up. For example, the CCD reported yesterday that 145 bills were submitted in the course of only one month.

One may wonder how the CCD manages to study these bills, classify them according to their importance, study them at the committee level, then discuss them at a plenary session, and finally pass them.

Jaime Yoshiyama [New Majority Independent Group leader] believes that in order to do so, most CCD members must not only display a proven parliamentary expertise but also have the ability to discern and determine what is relevant and what is not, without letting themselves be guided by their political interests.

This is the reason why the government has signed an agreement with U.S. AID and the University of the Pacific for a training program tailored for CCD legislators.

Moreover, the government is considering the possibility of sending CCD members abroad so that they may study "in s'tu" how parliaments work in Europe and the United States.

The final objective would be to have an updated Congress in the near future.

Dincote Announces Arrest of 4 MRTA Rebels

PA1902213893 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Report by Rocio Vicente]

[Text] The Counterterrorism National Directorate, Dincote, presented four Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement [MRTA] rebels responsible for the death of seven people in the San Cosme Mountain massacre on 18 January. The Dincote reported the killers belong to the MRTA and their victims belonged to the Shining Path. The names of the arrested are: Marco Antonio Cajavical de la Cruz, 18, a member of the political cell; Abraham Guizado Ugarte, 18, a member of the military cell; Francisco Diaz Mancilla, 18, a fighter; and Juan Manuel Pardina Castro, a fighter.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording, in progress]...on 17 December 1992 in the La Victoria and El Agustino Districts, where they [words indistinct] the murder of common criminal Andres Solorzano Salinas, which took place in the Sagrada family area on 27 December 1992, and the homicide of terrorist delinquent Abel Tejada on 20 December in La Victoria. [end recording]

This is an excerpt of the announcement made at the Dincote. It was also established that the terrorist criminals also participated in the attacks on the UPI News Agency in 1992, on a mobile unit of the Tactical Actions Subunit on 8 September 1992, and on the CARETAS magazine office on 6 November 1992, as well as in the terrorist actions that took place on 17 December 1992 in La Victoria and El Augustino Districts.

* Cisneros on Military Unrest, Counterinsurgency

93SM0128A Lima DEBATE in Spanish Nov 92-Jan 93 pp 8-10, 13-16

[Interview with Retired Army General Luis Cisneros Vizquerra by Luis Jaime Cisneros Hamann; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [DEBATE] You began your military career in Argentina and then attended the Military School at Chorrillos. How do these military training programs differ?

[General Cisneros] The differences could not be greater. The military school in Argentina reflected German influence, while the school in Peru showed French influence. The difference appeared in the respective regulations and the systems of maneuver. Although both of them trained a soldier in the same way, German discipline is more rigid than French discipline. For example, in Buenos Aires I saw how they demoted the brigadier general from the Military College of the Nation—the son of the president of the country—by sending him to serve for four months as an ordinary soldier in a barracks. If that happened in Peru, the director of the school would take him out of there in 24 hours.

[DEBATE] Do you think that the present military unrest in Peru, as expressed, for example, by the officers who are members of the COMACA group [Colonels, Majors, Captains], could lead to a crisis like the one which occurred in Argentina, at the time of the Aldo Rico uprisings?

[General Cisneros] What happened in Argentina could also occur in our country. I know personally and I have even met several times with a number of officers who belong to the COMACA organization. As a result of this I can state that they are deeply concerned as a group about political interference in the armed forces by President Fujimori. There is disillusionment at the lower levels of the armed forces when they see that in the higher ranks there are men who have lost the spirit of the armed forces as an institution and have personally accepted positions in the interest of their own future, no longer thinking of the future of the armed forces as such. That view of things by members of COMACA has led them to join together in a position which looks at the armed forces from an institutional point of view which has substance and which includes the Army, the Air Force, the

Navy, and the Police. They are not officers who have organized in a 373 political way to drive President Fujimori out of the government.

[DEBATE] How true is the statement that every general has the presidential emblem in his knapsack?

[General Cisneros] The ambition of a cadet is to be an officer, then to become a general, and finally to be commanding general of the Army. That story about having the presidential emblem in his knapsack is a work of fiction which reflects the way civilians look at things.

[DEBATE] Do you accept the official version of the events which took place on Friday, 13 November?

[General Cisneros] I have my reservations about what is said about Gen. Jaime Salinas and much deeper reservations that political party loyalties are held by these groups of officers. I personally know the alleged leaders but I know even more about the spirit of the Army as an institution. I know, backwards and forwards, how the Army thinks. As a result I can say that this matter involves a group of officers who are deeply concerned about the future of their branch of the service because they have lost faith in the high command of the Army.

[DEBATE] What most attracted your attention in the official version of the events?

[General Cisneros] Pretending to associate retired officers with political party positions which were totally negative for the country and for the Army. If anyone wanted to "prostitute" the armed forces, it was former President Alan Garcia. I emphatically deny that the Army as an institution has any sympathy for the APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance].

[DEBATE] But it was a military source who gave Garcia sufficient advanced warning so that he could escape on the night of 5 April. Has anti-APRA feeling grown in the armed forces?

[General Cisneros] They told us every day what the APRA had done with the Army in 1932. But I no longer believe that this hatred resulted from events which occurred during the Trujillo revolution. Neither do I believe that there were later any feelings of sympathy after the disastrous administration of President Garcia.

[DEBATE] How would you call the events of 13 November?

[General Cisneros] At the most, it was a conspiracy. This is a figure of speech which is supported, to some extent, by the continued existence of individual freedoms, including freedom to meet and freedom of expression. That is, everyone is free to meet with anyone else and talk about what they wish. That is why I conclude that this was not a coup d'etat. They could have met to exchange views. What we saw on 5 April was a coup d'etat, when there were troop movements and arrests. Did the coup plotters arrest anyone? I do not believe, either, in that story that they were going to kill President Fujimori. I would have to hear General Salinas and Major Ormeno say that they received such an order.

[DEBATE] If they were guilty, how should General Salinas be punished?

[General Cisneros] It is stated that President Fujimori has ordered that no one [among the alleged coup plotters] should receive less than 10 years in prison. If this story is true, we would be looking at a split in the Army as an institution. We do not know how long that is going to last. What must be done now is to accept that mistakes were made on all sides. President Fujimori must remove from his staff the man who created these problems for him with the armed forces. Why can he not remove Vladimiro Montesinos, the presidential adviser, from office?

Is this because there will be a protest among the military if he does so? Let us make no mistake about this. The members of the armed forces of Peru are professionals. They have every reason to be professionals. They are not mercenaries.

[DEBATE] What do you think of the decision to transfer General Salinas and other officers to a prison for common criminals?

[General Cisneros] To put it in the simplest terms, I consider it humiliating to make high ranking officers live with common criminals. I think that this decision should be changed without delay to avoid regrettable action which might be taken in defense of the honor of the uniform which they are charged with having soiled.

[DEBATE] Do you think that the present state of unrest in the armed forces may result in a new attempt at a coup d'etat before President Fujimori completes his term in 1995?

[General Cisneros] I do not know whether such a coup d'etat might take place before or after the end of his term. What concerns me about what has happened is the deep divisions which could develop in the Army between those who take a "political" and those who take an "institutional" view of things. If this situation continues, the same kind of struggle is going to take place as previously occurred in the Argentine Army between the so-called "colorados" [reds] and the "azules" [blues].

[DEBATE] Are you referring to the quarrel between the Cavalry and the Artillery branches of the Army?

[General Cisneros] It is not a rivalry between branches of the Army. As a result of circumstances it has been turned into that because Montesinos was from the Artillery branch. You just have to look at the higher ranking members of the Army staff to realize that it just so happens that the highest ranking officers in the Army are from the Artillery branch. I do not doubt that there are very good people among them, but not all of them are the best. Which Cavalry general is a member of the high command? I doubt that all of us from the Cavalry branch are low quality officers.

[DEBATE] Why does Montesinos have so much influence in the decisions of the armed forces?

[General Cisneros] It is reportedly he who suggests the names of people who are to handle the greatest military

responsibility at various levels. This means giving in to his prejudices in return. I do not know the reasons for his influence with President Fujimori. However, I must assume that they must be very important because up to now the president has not been prepared to do without such prejudiced advice.

[DEBATE] Why was then Captain Montesinos dropped from the Army?

[General Cisneros] Montesinos was dropped from the Army as a matter of discipline. He was sentenced to serve one year in a military prison for having abandoned his post in a garrison along the border and for having traveled to the United States by forging his orders. As Montesinos is considered to have retired, Major Fernandez Salvatecci charged him with treason to the nation under civilian law. The case was dismissed for lack of evidence. [passage omitted]

[DEBATE] What will be needed for the present alliance between President Fujimori and the armed forces to continue?

[General Cisneros] Essentially, and as a practical matter, a change has to be made in the interpretation that the president is the commander in chief of the armed forces. It is necessary for the Constituent Assembly to be more explicit on this matter. The president is the chief of state and, as such, the leader of all Peruvians. The Constitution of 1979 uses the term of "Jefe Supremo" [Supreme Leader], which is essentially honorific in nature and which sets out to describe the view that the military is subordinate to the civil power. Nevertheless, there should have been subordination but not subjection. The interpretation of this clause by Presidents Garcia and Fujimori is that the "Supreme Leader" does whatever he wishes within the armed forces. Currently, the president exercises authority which was previously and exclusively handled by the military high command.

[DEBATE] Could you give some examples?

[General Cisneros] The president chooses the commanding general of each branch of the armed forces as he pleases, without regard to professional qualification. He also has the authority to order the retirement of whomever he pleases. If President Fujimori selects the commander of the Army, what appointments is the commander of the Army going to make? Well, those which Fujimori asks him to make. Because of their professional records Generals Salinas, Jose Pastor, and Luis Palomino were chosen to hold the highest command positions in the Army. They were asked to retire for exclusively political reasons, in my view. And no one has explained to the Army why this was done. That amounts to emptying the law on replacements of any meaning.

[DEBATE] What role should be assigned to the armed forces in the new constitution? Should they have a consultative role to play?

[General Cisneros] I have a number of concerns about the mission which the new constitution will assign to us in the military. The Constitution of 1979 provides that we are not a body which must be consulted. It makes us responsible for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and security of the nation. The consultative role is a consequence of the responsibilities which the armed forces have. We should not have a consultative role on matters in which we do not participate. We cannot fail to exercise a consultative role in matters in which we do participate. But the role of the armed forces continues to evolve as a function of the very process of change in the country.

[DEBATE] Questions such as sovereignty are widely raised....

[General Cisneros] At present countries are less and less sovereign, because every day international law places new limitations on sovereignty. The role of the armed forces will be clearer at this stage in the life of the country if the next Congress defines what is meant by sovereignty. Until this is done, we will be responsible only for national security. National defense provides security for production and for the natural resources of the country, on which depends the fundamental security of the country.

[DEBATE] In modernizing the armed forces should a reduction of military expenditures be considered?

[General Cisneros] It is clear that we are moving toward a reorganization of the armed forces. However, this should be carried out as a function of certain objectives which are being sought. We could standardize organizations and equipment in the Latin American context, which would result in more direct and less tense relationships between the countries. Since tensions are much lower at present, this process could even involve a reduction in military expenditures. At the same time I believe that over the next few years there will clearly be more active participation by the armed forces in the development of the country. Then what could be saved on procuring tanks could be spent on engineer units to build roads.

[DEBATE] Could Peru lead the way in this respect?

[General Cisneros] This cannot be a unilateral decision. It should only be the result of a consensus reached among the countries of our region on the idea that a reduction in the armed forces is feasible and that an international organization can be established to supervise appropriately the implementation of the commitments which are assumed. I am convinced that Peru is a pacifist country. However, I also believe that Peru has been rather stupid throughout its history. Peace is achieved by understanding or dissuasion. And the only way of doing this in the face of a probable enemy is by having a considerable potential for war.

[DEBATE] Do you agree with those who say that one problem in providing appropriate pay to members of the armed forces is that there is an excessive number of officers?

[General Cisneros] There must be a process of rationalization. The Joint Command should handle this by providing more decisive and homogenous administration, even though this may eventually imply the loss of certain positions which are merely sinecures. However, when you speak about reducing the personnel of the armed forces, you give me the impression that you believe that we employ soldiers

or officers as a goal in itself. As if we do not define the kind of Army which we want to have in the future! When we clearly understand this, we will know how many officers will be needed. Then we will see what we should do with those who are eventually surplus to our needs. At that time it will be necessary to find positions for them and, for example, to set age limits for the different positions.

[DEBATE] How much does an Army major general receive monthly?

[General Cisneros] About 10 years ago I used to receive $1,150. Now it is only $300. [passage omitted]

[DEBATE] Why are you opposed to having military personnel vote?

[General Cisneros] Ideas would be discussed better if the people who hold the highest political positions in the country have had military service. I am opposed to voting by military personnel because, given our mental and social structure, that would end up with the politicization of military institutions. We already saw during the Garcia administration—and this is even clearer in the Fujimori administration—the destructive results of political interference in the armed forces. We cannot commit ourselves to any political administration.

[DEBATE] Excessive military spending in the 1970's created a force to discourage external aggression but neglected the domestic front. For that reason, since the beginning of the war against the Shining Path guerrillas, proper weapons for a guerrilla war have been in short supply. What can we do with so many tanks rusting away while there are not enough helicopters?

[General Cisneros] That view is partially correct. Nevertheless, it is important to recall that during the administration of Gen Velasco Alvarado the possibility of a war with Chile could not be discounted. The conflict was avoided when we convinced Chile that Peru had a war machine which made it possible to face Chile under favorable conditions. There were moments of high tension along the border with Chile, and there were very clear orders to prepare the armed forces for the beginning of any eventual war. If we had not been so well equipped, we would suddenly have faced the same situation we saw in 1879 [when the Pacific War between Chile and Peru broke out]. We would still feel the effects of such a war. Furthermore, in 1980 we were equipped to deal with the Shining Path guerrilla movement because we were prepared for war with Ecuador in 1981.

[DEBATE] What should be the criterion for procuring arms in the future?

[General Cisneros] This is a matter of priorities. Under General Velasco our priorities were set on the external front. However, from now until the year 2000 they will be on the internal front. At present no one should think about purchasing tanks or anti-aircraft artillery, apart from machine guns to shoot down the aircraft of narcotics traffickers. We are all talking about small armed forces, well-equipped and properly paid. However, what will we get from that if our neighbors do not share the same outlook? That is when the external front will regain importance.

[DEBATE] What action can be taken on the Latin American front?

[General Cisneros] I am concerned that, when people talk about economic and political integration in the Latin American context, they leave aside the matter of military integration. If integration is achieved in economic terms, there will be foreign owned means of production to satisfy the economic needs of Peru and other countries of the region. Nevertheless, this concept of economic and political integration will falter as long as there is no system of military integration which the armed forces can follow during the next century. Therefore, I believe that the solution is to move toward South American military integration, which will eliminate the prejudices which we have, going as far as standardizing equipment and achieving uniformity in our outlooks. We can revitalize the war industry of the region and, therefore, break away from the arms market of Israel or Germany. In this way we can also reach the point of establishing a small, well-paid, and properly equipped army. We must recall that the problems between the various countries of the subregion have been disappearing and that all of us should contribute to resolving internal and external obstacles which could come from the other side. When we reach unity in political, economic, and military thinking with Ecuador and Chile, we will be moving toward major reductions in military expenditures.

[DEBATE] What do you think of the antisubversive strategy of President Fujimori?

[General Cisneros] I think that positive steps are being taken to defeat subversion. Finally, there is a realization, outside the military structure, that the war must be conducted in all areas. The Army has always said that we will not defeat subversion as long as the responsibility falls solely on the military. For example, the minister of education has made a very important decision and adopted a very significant attitude. The subversive murder cells are made up of young people of between 16 and 24 years of age who are recruited in universities and schools. That was the target of the Shining Path movement from the beginning. Clearly, the solution is not in killing these young people and waiting until another group of subversives emerges, killing them also. If we do that, the youth of the country will disappear. Therefore, I thought it was proper for the minister of education to assume responsibility for teaching the fundamental values of citizenship.

[DEBATE] How do you evaluate the role of the communications media in this process?

[General Cisneros] This is another area where we have made a great deal of progress. The media have realized that we face the same danger and that it is necessary to revitalize our efforts and minimize those of the subversives. Today the press is much more responsible in handling the subject than it was four years ago. However, it is still necessary to work on the political area. It is necessary to work with the municipal authorities and with the mayors of the various

districts. These are the people who must maintain contact with the local military leaders to achieve effective performance. The importance of municipal elections lies in this direction. Without regard to political orientation we must work with the elected authorities because the majority of the people believe in them.

[DEBATE] And in the economic field?

[General Cisneros] It is a very serious matter that social security arrangements do not reach this area. We have to give priority to the rural areas which are emerging from the control of the subversives and show the people that the democratic system is good. For many years it has been said that it is not a good idea to choose the side of the Shining Path movement and that this is not a lifetime choice. However, it is not easy to say that the democratic system is good without falling into a certain cynicism, because our democratic system has led to the emergence of the lost villages of Peru and to poverty, misery, infant mortality, and illiteracy. To prove that this system really tries to be better than it has been, it is necessary to provide economic help from the state, because you cannot eat ideas.

[DEBATE] How serious a matter has it been to fight against subversion with low salaries and with poorly equipped personnel?

[General Cisneros] You cannot carry on a war for 12 years simply by sending the armed forces and the police to fight them, while society is not involved and remains on the sidelines of the conflict. A war economy is needed. Today miserable salaries are paid to the security forces. You have to go into the emergency zones to see how the troops are fed and the conditions under which they operate, very often on foot. If the state cannot pay the men in uniform properly while they live, at least it should provide a decent pension to the relatives of those who are killed. A man who gave his life in defense of our system—and in Peru it seems that no one who values his own life deserves to have his widow thrown out of military housing or to be denied a decent pension to educate his children properly. The government certainly can do that, given the number of men who have died in defense of our system. From the point of view of a government ministry, it is easy to analyze and explain the difficult situation facing the economy. No one can argue about the importance of these matters. But what has priority in Peru today? Or do they not know when a war is won or lost?

[DEBATE] Do you think that it will be possible to defeat the subversives before 1995?

[General Cisneros] No. The wishes of the president are very encouraging, but it is one thing to defeat the Shining Path movement and something else to pacify the country. Pacifying the country means achieving minimum levels of welfare for all of the people. Technical analysts from ECLA [United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America] say that such an objective will take 90 years to reach.

[DEBATE] And what do you say?

[General Cisneros] I say that we need a national program which will take 20 years to complete.

[DEBATE] With Fujimori as president?

[General Cisneros] Neither with him nor with the armed forces.

[DEBATE] What do you think should be done with Abimael Guzman?

[General Cisneros] I share the opinion of the president. I would prefer to see him dead. Keeping him alive costs us a substantial amount of money which could be spent for better things. Spending money on this miserable man cannot be justified. Furthermore, we do not know what the future of the country will be. Politicians have a tendency to pardon everyone.

[DEBATE] Do you not think that with Guzman in jail the myth around him will be destroyed?

[General Cisneros] I have heard that view many times, but who remembers Che Guevara now? What does that myth mean now? Nothing. Mao also died, and many more people remember him. Guzman has ceased being one of the realities facing us. He must pay for what he did with his life. He cannot repent for what he did.

[DEBATE] Are you repeating the view which Guzman presented in "Quehacer" [What Is to Be Done?] in 1982? Guzman said that, given the characteristics of the internal war in the Department of Ayacucho, the security forces could kill 60 peasants, but, at most, only three of them are supporters of the "Shining Path" movement.

[General Cisneros] That well-known phrase was taken out of context. What I said was that, "For the police forces to be able to be successful, they would have to begin to kill 'Shining Path' followers and those who are not 'Shining Path' followers, because that is the only way in which they could be sure of achieving success. They could kill 60 people and, at most, there would be three supporters of 'Shining Path' among them. And the police would certainly say that all of the 60 people killed were 'Shining Path' supporters." And the reporter asked me: "Do you like that solution?" And I said to him, "It would be the worst alternative and that is why I am opposed" to having the armed forces take part in the struggle under those conditions. I do not advocate killing 60 people to find three supporters of the Shining Path movement. That was a possibility that I did not like. In these wars—in which the enemy is not recognizable and therefore in which everyone can be a suspect but not everyone is an enemy—innocent people always die. When an armed clash takes place, it is very difficult to ask a person whose life is at risk to behave calmly. How many innocent people died during the Gulf War?

[DEBATE] What do you think is the principal achievement of the government?

[General Cisneros] The assumption of the political responsibility for confronting subversion on the internal and external fronts. Fujimori will be remembered by history for having done that alone.

[DEBATE] And what is the government's worst error?

[General Cisneros] Its interference in the armed forces. In general, it is a mistake to fight on new fronts unnecessarily. He fought with the Catholic Church and then reconciled himself with it. He fought with the political parties and now has to reconcile himself with them because they are part of the democratic system. Now he has opened a front with the armed forces which I hope will be settled in time. Fujimori has a great tendency to try to impose his point of view. He has an autocratic outlook which causes him to act in this way. Another error is not having people who tell the truth among his immediate entourage. His government may end up in failure if it does not reach compromises with other people. It is true that you have to adopt firm positions. However, there is no reason to believe that your own opinion is the only valid view in the country.

[DEBATE] Should Fujimori be reelected?

[General Cisneros] No. In view of all of the complex aspects of the situation in Peru, it is impossible to be successful for 10 years. It is better to leave the country reasonably satisfied, to be successful over the short term, and then to return later on. Staying in office for 10 years involves unnecessary sacrifices. You would have to be a superman to be successful for a whole decade. This is something which Fujimori is not.

Venezuela

Perez Says Sucre and Barinas States Normalizing

PA1902172693 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] President Carlos Andres Perez stated that the situations in Sucre and Barinas states are getting back to normal. He pointed out the urgent need for state security to improve law and order by respecting the Supreme Court of Justice's decisions.

In President Perez' opinion, the incidents in Sucre and in Barinas states demonstrate that Venezuelans are not used to obeying decisions by official institutions. Such is the case of the Supreme Court of Justice's ruling that reinstated the former Sucre and Barinas state governors, thereby repealing the Supreme Electoral Board's decision to hold new elections. The decision to suspend the elections will remain in effect until the Supreme Court of Justice issues a definite ruling on the results of the 6 December elections in Sucre and Barinas states. [word indistinct] reiterated that the government has not participated nor is it participating in the current situation in Sucre and Barinas states. President Perez highlighted the state's right to strengthen the state of law by obeying the rulings of the Supreme Court of Justice, the nation's highest court. Here is what President Perez said:

[Begin Perez recording] The Supreme Court of Justice is the highest court of the nation. It is the one that defines the law. The court's decisions, whether we like them or not, must be obeyed and respected by the nation. Let us not forget that this court was reformed, to a great extent, with the support of all the political forces through the appointment of new justices. These appointments were made through Congress. In political terms, one cannot say that the ruling party has significant influence in the court. Everyone knows this. The truth of the matter is that a court of justice must act without taking political interests or public opinions into consideration. [end recording]

President Perez said that the government will enforce respect for the court's decisions. The government will also enforce the election results issued by the Supreme Electoral Board. President Perez called for political leaders to demonstrate their democratic conduct.

Calm Restored in Cumana, Sucre State

PA1902213993 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Report by Jose Marcano from Cumana, Sucre State - live]

[Excerpt] We are in front of the residence of Eduardo Morales Gil, acting governor of Sucre State, and—as you can well observe—calm has been restored in Sucre, specifically in Cumana. The people are calm in the downtown area.

The local daily REGION from Sucre reports on 19 February that military intelligence has uncovered a radical plan to murder Marcos Lopez Incerney [not further identified] and blame Democratic Action. The paper also reports the local economy is in a state of bankruptcy as a result of the anarchy and political violence promoted by Ramon Martinez [candidate of the Movement Toward Socialism for Sucre governor]. Eduardo Morales Gil has arrived here to reorganize a new cabinet with Ramon Martinez, reads another headline.

Meanwhile, the daily SIGLO VEINTIUNO reports that Governor Morales Gil has arrived in Cumana, and Sucre State will now have a new administrative staff. The paper adds the governor said he hopes to restore peace and that elections will be called so that the people will voice their position. These have been some of the reports in the local regional newspaper.

We are awaiting the results of a meeting between acting Governor Eduardo Morales Gill and various local leaders of Sucre State. [passage omitted]

Quick Decision Urged by Politicians

PA1902190293 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] In the opinion of certain politicians, the Supreme Court of Justice should expedite its decision on the Sucre and Barinas election results so the current situation in both states can return to normal. The media approached several deputies, among them former Sucre Governor Enrique Tejeira Paris, who pointed out that a prompt decision by the Supreme Court of Justice is very important. Tejeira Paris suggested the possibility of runoff elections in the coming elections to avoid similar situations in the future. Here is what Enrique Tejeira Paris said:

[Being Tejeira Paris recording] We should have an electoral system that includes runoff elections. That way we can

avoid having one candidate win by a slight margin. Several parties can join forces to back one candidate in the second round. Then the two candidates with the most votes would compete for the post as is done with the presidency, state governorship, or any other position. [end recording]

Rafael Rodriguez, deputy and vice president of the Energy and Mines Commission, said the call for parties and the community to calm down and wait for new elections is for their own good.

[Being Rodriguez recording] I urge the Supreme Court of Justice to decide promptly on the bottom line. I think it is necessary for the Supreme Court of Justice to decide on the bottom line so peace can return to Sucre and Barinas States. [end recording]

Former Governor Appointed Acting Governor

PA1902212693 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] Former Sucre Governor Eduardo Morales Gil reassumed office on 18 February as acting governor in an attempt to return the situation in Sucre to normal. Before returning to Sucre, Morales Gil announced his appointment to the media through Official Gazette No. 35,155, dated 27 February. The article in the gazette establishes his appointment as acting governor until the Supreme Court of Justice rules on the appeal for the annulment of the elections in Sucre.

Morales Gil said he has already contacted the state's diverse economic and political sectors. His first official act will be to attempt to calm down the public and institute the governorship's administration. The governor pointed out that the damage caused by the unrest was significant in Cumana. Those most affected were small businesses. Here is Eduardo Morales Gil:

[Being Morales Gil recording] My first acts will be to reactivate the governorship's administrative apparatus; it is almost at a standstill. As a result, most of the activities in Sucre are also at a standstill. The accounting official appointed by the Interior Ministry's regional office is only meeting the payroll, but not regularly or completely. We have to put the administration in order and, of course, we have to form a government team. This team must be composed of persons with very high moral standards, outstanding citizens, so that people can have faith that we will conduct an impartial process until we reach a definite solution to this problem. This may take one to two months, when new elections are held. [end recording]

Morales Gil also pointed out that his first meeting will be with Sucre community leaders to solve the current problem so that Cumana can be demilitarized.

Memorandum of Understanding Signed With Guyana

PA2002010493 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] The presidents of Venezuela and Guyana have signed a memorandum of understanding in which they prioritized the development of trade, agriculture, investment, transportation, environmental protection, health, and education in both countries.

At a news conference Guyanese President Cheddi Jagan outlined the agreements he signed with the Venezuelan president during his first official visit to the country. He underscored that the possibility of using waterways between Georgetown and the northwestern part of Guayana, including the Esequibo region, is being considered in order to increase trade and economic cooperation between the two nations.

Jagan said the priority of the Guyanese-Venezuelan Joint Commission, which will be in charge of developing the memorandum of understanding, is to advance progress in areas such as agriculture, education, health, and transportation, among others. In addition, a group of Venezuelan businessmen will soon visit Guyana to explore other areas where investment may be possible.

[Begin Jagan recording in English with simultaneous translation into Spanish] We are considering the possibility of using funds from existing oil facilities to build more homes with Venezuelan materials and contractors. We are also considering cooperation in aerial, sea, and river transportation, and we have discussed cooperation in such areas as industry and agriculture. [end recording]

President Jagan fielded questions regarding the historical conflict between Venezuela and Guyana over the Esequibo region. He announced that his government will appoint an official who will establish contact with Alistair McAlister and the Venezuelan Government representative to resolve the problem.

The Haitian issue was also broached by the Guyanese president, who said he supports Venezuela's efforts to secure Jean Bertrand Aristide's return to power. Regarding Cuba, President Jagan said that although his country's position is tempered by the Caribbean Common Market's position, he is trying to achieve Cuba's return to the family of Latin American nations.

Regarding the presence of illegal Guyanese in the southern part of Venezuela, President Jagan expressed confidence that a large percentage of this population will return to their nation due to the new living conditions that are being established by his government.